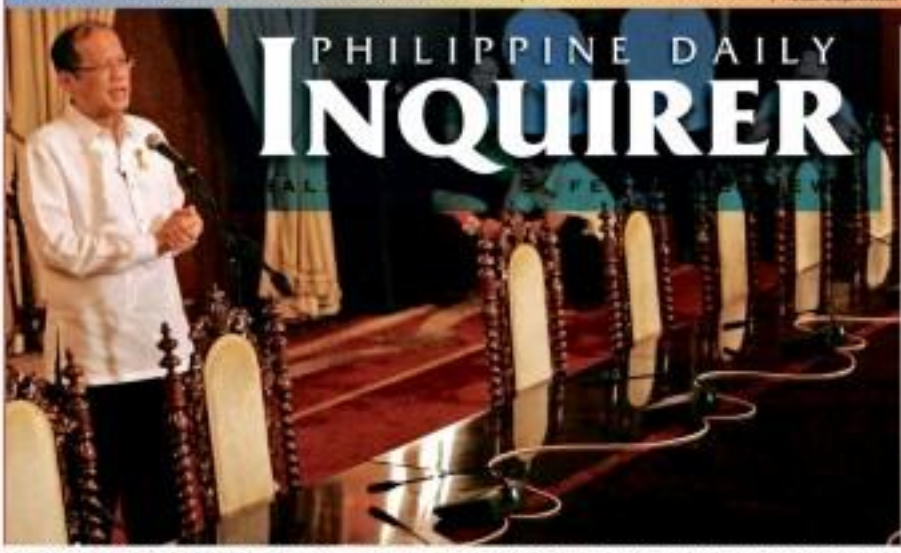
Saturday, August 18, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 251 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4401 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



P-Noy says JBC 'unfair,' will still pick CJ from list

By TJ Burgonio

"AM I SATISFIED? Personally, I'm not," President Aquino told reporters, referring to the Judicial and Bar Council list of nominees that did not include the administration candidate, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

Nevertheless, the President said he would pick a new Chief Justice from the JBC list before the expiration of the 90-day deadline set by the Constitution. That will be on Aug. 27.

The new Chief Justice will take the place of Renato Corona, who was impeached by the House of Representatives in December for viola-

MAY SAYS A11

STATE OF DISCONTENT, DISBELIEF President Aquino tells reporters he was not satisfied with the JBC short list of candidates for Chief Justice and the claim of convicted murderer Rolito Go that he was kidnapped. The President made both statements during an impromptu interview at the State Dining Room of Malacañang on Friday. ...

GMA doc fears 'worst'

Cardiologist urges immediate surgery in US or Austria

By Jayson T. Gamil

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must seek foreign medical attention as soon as possible as her condition took a turn for the worse, her doctor said yesterday.

But Malacañang said all means must be exhausted to get treatment here for Arroyo, who is facing electoral sabotage, breach of ethics and plunder charges.

Dr. Roberto Anastacio, a cardiologist at Makati Medical Center (MMC), said the shifting parts of a metal brace on the cervical spine of Arroyo had become more "progressive and aggressive."

The condition was causing Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative in Congress, increasing difficulty in breathing and swallowing.

Asked by reporters if the condition was deadly, Anastacio replied, "Yes."

Anastacio ordered Arroyo discharged yesterday despite her worsening condition, but advised her to get immediate surgery abroad.

"She has no choice," Anastacio said.

GMA DOC A4

DISCHARGED Arroyo unable to take in air and food properly but the doctor discharged her yesterday.

P-Noy: How can you be kidnapped in Bilibid?

By Jocelyn Ating and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT AQUINO and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima made one thing clear yesterday —they were still not swallowing road rage killer Rolito Go's claim that he was abducted from New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

"How can you be kidnapped inside Bilibid?" Mr. Aquino asked. "How could the kidnappers get in there?"

De Lima was more blunt.

"There is one theory that he was not really at the minimum security compound," she said, referring to Go's claim that he was abducted by four men while he was about to return to the NBP's main compound. "There's information that he had been gone for two days and one night. When his absence was exposed, they were concerned to come up with this abduction story."

"The NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) does not believe his version," De Lima told reporters. "But we don't want

P-NOY SAYS A11

DEADLY Dr. Roberto V. Anastacio conducts a medical briefing at Makati Medical Center to show the results of the quantum-CT scan taken Aug. 14. The shifting titanium plate and cage in Arroyo's neck are causing protrusions in walls of her air and food pathways. ...

Abalos posts bail; DOJ surprised

By Jayroux T. Gamil and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) said it was not surprised by a court decision to release on bail former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. The Pasay City judge cited weak evidence and Abalos' advanced age.

But the Department of Justice (DOJ) said the ruling came much too quickly, as state prosecutors filed their comments on Abalos' bail petition only last Thursday.

Judge Jesus Mupas of the 112th branch of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court allowed Abalos, who is accused of electoral sabotage, to go temporarily free on P1-million bail.

Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. maintained, however, that the Comelec had a strong case against Abalos.

"This is the same with the case of Arroyo," Brillantes said, referring to the electoral

ABALOS A6

US blogger accuses Sotto: 'Lying thief'

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN AMERICAN woman has called Sen. Vicente Sotto III a "lying thief" and accused the Senate majority leader of plagiarizing her blog during an acrimonious debate on the reproductive health (RH) bill that pitted supporters of the bill against the Catholic Church and other sectors that consider artificial contraception as abortion.

Sotto initially denied using part of Sarah Pope's blog when he argued against the bill to distribute contraceptives in government-run health clinics, but after the salty label came out in her blog on Thursday, the senator's chief of staff, Hector Villacorta, acknowledged that they had used Pope's blog.

US BLOGGER A14

EID-HUBARAH (BLESSED FESTIVAL) A worker cleans the ornament mosque and star symbol of a mosque in Pasay City ahead of Eid'l Fitr on Friday. Eid'l Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, and it is a custom among the Muslim faithful to wear colorful traditional attire during the celebrations. The government has declared Monday an official holiday to mark the end of Ramadan. ...

Poll chief: Luxurious, yes, but not overpriced

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE FURNISHINGS in the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) summer cottages in Baguio City may be luxurious but they're not overpriced, Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said in response to Sen. Alan Cayetano's charges made during a budget hearing on Wednesday.

Citing a Notice of Award dated Feb. 20 this year, Cayetano said the procurement for the cottages included seven king-size beds worth P93,250 each; 17 queen-size beds at P64,600 each, as well as blinds and curtains worth P346,552.35 and P694,349.72, respectively.

The Senate minority leader described as "luxurious" and "extravagant" the beds and furnishings worth P7 million pro-

POLL CHIEF A14

Dutch treat: One-way ticket to Mars

THE HAGUE—As the world marvels at the latest Mars landing, a Dutch start-up is aiming to beat the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) at its own game by sending the first humans to the red planet—and film all as a reality show.

The big catch: It's a one-way trip.

Fact, fiction or publicity stunt from the

DUTCH A14

WHAT'S INSIDE

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PROPERTY **Megacities** have no other way to go but 'green' / B4-1

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY Cavite-Batangas-Laguna-Quezon area will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Isabela/Aurora	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Ilocos	Partly Cloudy
Dagupan/Alaminos	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Naval Area	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo/Capiz	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Kalibo	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Courtesy of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

Second FRONTPAGE

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One slot left in admin ticket

By TJ Burgonio

THE AQUINO administration has finalized its senatorial slate except for the last slot.

President Aquino said yesterday the ruling coalition was down to deciding who gets the final slot in the administration's 12-man senatorial slate for the 2013 senatorial elections.

"We started off with 30. Now very unlikely there are 15. We're still more than the 12 that we need. We're in a coalition, so the subject of talks is who gets the final slot," Mr. Aquino told reporters in Malacañang.

By next month, the party will introduce its slate, Mr. Aquino declined to say how many of them are coming from Liberal Party's coalition partners.

The guest candidates reportedly include Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, president of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan, who confirmed accepting the LP's offer to be part of its slate for the midterm elections.

LDP joining coalition

Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the once powerful Liberal Party-dominated Pilipino (1965), also said his party would "most likely" be part of the ruling coalition. He said the Nacionalista Party and the Nationalist People's Coalition would also be in the slate.

"We'll be satisfied with one slot," Angara told reporters after attending the LDP's executive council meeting at the Manila Hotel.

President Aquino has already publicly endorsed Angara's son, Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo.

Mr. Aquino confirmed he had begun preparing his endorsement speeches for each of the senatorial candidates.

"Of course, this is a political campaign. He need to champion the causes of each one of them, why we chose them to present to our countrymen so our allies in our pursuit of the righteous path," he said.

The President also defended his decision to bring along Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, Asd Villanueva of the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority, Abbayan spokesperson Elma Hontiveros and Caucasa Communications Rufino Biason in the distribution of relief goods to flood victims.

"It's different when you just look at the pictures. But if you're there, and you walk in the floods and see the extent of damage, and you get elected as senator and our proposals reach their level, they'll be familiar with the government's perspective. They'll be more sympathetic," he said.

'Education' for bets

In short, it's sense not of an "orientation" for them, he added.

And whether anybody taking shots it, the President disclosed he was disheartened by news that Mamasapano Rep. Rudolfo Bacani was asking for an inquiry into the government's P732-billion flood control project.

"When I read the news I felt a little sad. There was this congressman who quickly called for an investigation of the plan. It's not been finalized yet and it's already being investigated. If you're investigating, you're thinking of an anomaly," he said.

He said he didn't expect his own political allies to indulge in investigation after seeing the extent of devastation on the ground.

Bacani was reported as saying he would scrutinize the administration's massive flood control project to make sure it was based on a "holistic study." *With Norman Bordadora*

'TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE'

Hike in bounty for Palparan, other fugitives draws flak

By Rosette Duque
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Employment.

Human rights lawyer Edre Olalia has suggested President Aquino's doubling of reward for the capture of retired Army major general Jovito Palparan Jr. in this light.

"At first blush, it seems to be a positive step and should be welcomed by everyone desperate to see that justice is done. But alternatively, it is not to be desirous," said Olalia, counsel of the parents of missing University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, who were abducted in Bulacan in 2006.

"The amount and the money are still too little and too late and are empty tokenism especially with the continuing killings, disappearances and other rights violations and impunity," Olalia said.

"As long as he is coddled by people who sympathize with his rampant sense of deny-and-fight and as long as Policy decides and defends from there, strong and decisive use of his brutal and extensive powers and resources is seriously and doggedly run against rights violators, Palparan will continue to flourish his case while playing golf."

The families of the detained women also said the increase in the bounty was useless.

"They do not need to come this armed. What they need is to arrest him immediately," Erlinda Cadapan, mother of Sherlyn, said.

Concepcion Empeño, mother of Karen, echoed the statement.

"If Malacañang said they are not happy that the fugitives have not been arrested, we are all the more dismayed. However, we think that the same as the bounty is useless if they will not look for them. What they should do is to exert all efforts to genuinely look for them," Empeño said.

Lawyer Rizendo Ulat, director of the National Bureau of Investigation in Central Luzon, said the seven-month search for Palparan, dubbed by activists as "hatchet," had yielded negative results.

A lot of money

Ulat said the PC/Coalition "is a lot of money and would encourage informants to come out." Hopefully we will receive new information to work on. Please tell people to come out. We will drop everything to work on leads that will provide. We will protect their identities," he said.

Two of Palparan's cronies, Lt. Col. Felipe Anonuevo and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio, are detained at Fort Bonifacio. Another soldier, M/Sgt. Raul Olarte, remains at large.

Housing developer Dolfie Lee is also the subject of Malacañang's housing list list lawyer Nilda Sevese, said it was an "inappropriate" response from President Aquino.

Lord Allan Jay Velasco was able to obtain some P7 billion in housing loans from Pag-Ibig by allegedly using fictitious buyers and fraudulent documents.

Aside from Palparan and Lee, former Bataan Gov. Joel Reyes and Dimapur Rep. Rodem Roilo have also been included.

Reyes and his brother Mario Reyes were charged in the murder of environmentalist broadcaster Gerry Ortega in 2011 while Roilo was found guilty for the murder of his wife.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former fugitive himself, yesterday gave the Philippine National Police a tip on how to catch those high-profile wanted persons.

"My advice to the PNP is simple and practical—use their targets for breakfast, lunch and dinner, including weekends and holidays. Then, and only then I can be pretty sure they will succeed in arresting them," Lacson said in a statement.

Lacson, who headed the PNP from 1999 to 2001, criticized the country's law enforcement agencies for "doing nothing" in the hunt for Palparan and the other fugitives. With reports from Carmela Reyes-Ostrope, inquirer Central Luzon; Philip Sabarreal Warman in Bulacan

SC upholds Garcia's arrest

THE SUPREME Court (SC) has affirmed the arrest of former military comptroller and retired general Carlos Garcia late year for failure to disclose all his wealth in his statement of assets and liabilities and net worth (SALN) in the 2002 and 2003.

In a 26-page decision dated July 30 but issued yesterday the high court's Third Division junked Garcia's certiorari petition questioning the validity of the confirmation of warrants signed by President Aquino on Sept. 9, 2011, which affirmed Garcia's conviction by a court martial in 2005 for violations of the Articles of War.

"This court finds that the Office of the President did not commit any grave abuse of discretion in issuing the confirmation of warrants in question," the court said in a decision penned by Justice Diosdado Peralta.

Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Roberto Abad, Mrs. Lourdes Sereno and Estela Perlas-Bernabe concurred in the decision.

Garcia is currently serving a two-year jail term at the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City.

The justices dismissed Garcia's contention that the court martial ceased to have jurisdiction over him when he retired.

In a 62-page petition for certiorari filed on Sept. 30 last year, Garcia argued that his arrest and detention was "a case of illegal confinement or detention."

Garcia was found guilty by court martial in December 2005 for wrongfully declaring all his existing assets in his SALNs for 2002 and 2003, and being an United States (naturalized while serving the Philippine military. *Jerome Aning*

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In celebration of this year's anniversary, the theme is " REJUVENATION", and a series of activities are scheduled which includes the FREE HEALTH SEMINAR on August 25 with the topics that includes COLLAGEN, STEM CELL and LASER BIOCHELATION by renowned specialist doctors including Dr. Michael Walter Fe Cayton-Lawrence of the Multilevel System. It will be held at the TOPAZ 1 Hall, 88 Fr. Calloway Blvd, Cubao Q.C. from 1 to 5 pm. It is open to the public for free.

Health Packages (P3,500/ Promo which will also be conducted at BioVitale branches on the following schedule: Aug 18/Sunday, Cubaonation City (9434029/66) Aug 22, San Fernando Pampanga (9409634/44), Aug 27, Lipa City (9421/2004). There are also scheduled promotional activities for the month of September and October that includes Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Dumaguete and Tagaytay area. For other info you may send txt to/fax (09053/8000 or 09449163). BioVitale Cubao Branch.

Weekend Wellness Promo will also be available this (Every weekends (Aug 18 to 21 and Aug 25 to 27, 2012), BIO-ZAPPER (www.biozapper.com) Electromagnetic Therapy Device.

A special lecture for medical doctors and allied health practitioners will also be conducted for FREE by Dr. Michael Walter Fe Cayton-Lawrence who introduced the Multivalent laser system and Ionic Detox in the field of laser technology. The lecture is set on August 24, Friday at the Clinton Conference room, Regina Tower Suites, P. Tuazon cor Cubao Q.C. For reservation you may contact Mr. Ed Abellana at 09263035350.

BioVitale recently opened also its health farm Symbiosis, located at the Mendoza Estate, Tambobong San Mateo Road. Here we let you experience health in the most natural way, exercise and the serene itself.

For more details on these activities you may contact the main office BioVitale Cubao Branch: Gerad Flr. CWD Bldg (97), EDSA, Cubao across Farmers (9346762); San Fernando Pampanga Branch: Ground Flr. Mercedes Complex, Dolores (09409634); Cebu City: 2/F Rodriguez Building, Gorordo Ave. Lahug (Cebu) (09462648); Lipa City: House of Mang Jose, Ayala Highway (09421/2004) and Alabang: Aurora Bldg., Alabang Zapote Road (0917/3391).

'Helen' death toll up to 118

By Philip C. Tubeza and Tina G. Santos

THE COMBINED death toll from Typhoon "Helen" and the southwest monsoon has risen to 118 while damage to infrastructure and agricultural crops has reached more than P3 billion, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said yesterday.

NDRRMC executive director Benito Ramos said nine persons died after Helen devastated northern Luzon while the number of fatalities from the southwest monsoon climbed to 109.

Seven remaining there were miscarried, 17 injured and two missing due to Typhoon Helen," Ramos said.

He said the storm affected 24,492 persons in 107 barangays in the Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, Mimaropa and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Ramos said Helen left the country three years and 36,106 persons seeking shelter in 69 evacuation centers, Ramos said.

He added that the typhoon damaged P57,167,668.00 worth of agricultural crops and fisheries in the Ilocos Region.

However, Ramos said the southwest monsoon last week wrought a bigger devastation, with P9,915,940,289.72 worth of infrastructure and crops damaged or destroyed in Region I, II, IV-A, IV-B and Metro Manila.

The devastation in the agricultural sector and the country 95,804,805,063.72 while P601,282,230 worth of infrastructure was damaged, Ramos said.

Benigno Simeon Aquino was expected to enjoy the sunny weather, 16 areas in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and the Calabarzon were still flooded, he added.

The Department of Public Works and Highways yesterday assured motorists that its personnel are working round the clock to restore roads damaged by floods.

Correction

IN THE AUG. 17 ISSUE, a front page story—"Go business ranges from bombay fish to nursing"—mentioned the official name of the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City. The national penitentiary is officially called Bilibid Prison.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Ombudsman, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Pasay Makati City, fax this: 897-01-58-58; e-mail address: dpdinfo@inquirer.com.ph.

The Daily Gospel

Saturday - August 10, 2013
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Feria; Pentecost Octave

1st Reading: Eph. 1:11-14, 17-18, 20-23

The word of Yahweh came to me in these terms, "Why are you applying this proverb to the land of Israel: 'The parents have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are on edge'? As I live, word of Yahweh, this proverb will not be heard in Israel. All life is in my hands, the life of the parent and the life of the child are mine. The person that sins is the person who will die.

Imagine a man who is righteous and practises what is just and right. He does not eat at the mountain shrines or look toward the filthy idols of Israel, does not defile his neighbor's wife, or have intercourse with a woman during her period, he molests no one, pays what he owes, does not steal, gives food to the hungry and clothes to the naked, demands no interest on a loan and detests food for interest, refrains from injustice, practises true justice, runs in my laws, follows my decrees and obeys my laws in acting loyally. Because such a man is truly righteous, he will live, word of Yahweh.

But perhaps this man has a son who steals and sheds blood, something of one of his father's acts [b].

Will such a man live? No, he will not! He has committed all these abominations he will die. His guilt will fall upon him.

But if why I will judge you, Israel, each one according to his ways, word of Yahweh. Come back, turn away from your offenses, that you may not discover punishment.

Now, no matter how all the offenses you have committed, get a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, Israel? I do not want the death of anyone, word of Yahweh, but that you be converted and live!"

Gospel: Matthew 19:13-15

Little children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and say a prayer. But the disciples scolded those who brought them. Jesus then said, "Let them be! Do not stop the children from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these." So Jesus laid his hands on them and went his way.

Reflection

The children of today are not innocent, they have their weapons, certainly for authority, disrespect for their elders, they talk back rude and won't mind their elders, they are bullying each other, they don't follow curfew orders. They have not seen the courtesy to stand up when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, manipulate the conversation in front of guests, have miserable table manners, a shocky manner and they pronounce their teachers." This text is a proof that human nature does not change all that much since the time Jesus walked on earth. Jesus comforts the little children and expresses divine comfort to them. Jesus then said, "Let them be! Do not stop the children from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these." So Jesus laid his hands on them and went his way.

Reflection

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Glenrose Computerized Foundation Inc., 4 Maginoo Street, UP Village, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, tel. 981-1000, 9818, 981-8800, fax +632 929-0702, e-mail: glenrose@yahoo.com, website: glenrosefoundation.com

Benguet Corp. cites rescuers of trapped miner

BENGUET Corp. president Benjamin Philip Romualdez (center) poses with the rescue team.

BENGUET Corp. has commended the members of the team that rescued Felipe Pilimen, an independent small-scale miner who was trapped for a week in a collapsed mining tunnel in Benguet province.

The tunnel caved-in because of rain inundation from Benguet Corp. president Benjamin Philip Romualdez during the company's recent 100th anniversary celebrations, the company said in a statement.

Pilimen and another small-scale miner, Johnson Bahingan, entered a mining tunnel in Itogon, Bila, Baloid, Benguet last Aug. 3, to install timber supports when the tunnel suddenly caved in. Bahingan, who was able to get out, went to the Philippine National Police which in turn sought the help of Benguet Corp., the country's oldest mining company.

The company immediately dispatched a rescue team, headed by safety manager Mobber Tadoboo to the Baloid tunnel.

Rescuers installed a PVC pipe to serve as Pilimen's lifeline for food and air after initial efforts to rescue him failed because of sudden muck flow that covered up the alternative passage-way that the rescuers had created.

The rescue operations proved to be difficult because of the inherent dangers of the tunnel and the presence of muck produced by the loose ground saturated with rain water.

Benguet Corp. then sent a reinforcement team of miners to the area to aid.

Pilimen was finally rescued on Aug. 10, and was immediately turned over to the municipal physician for treatment.

The rescue team that worked round the clock to rescue the trapped miner also included miners from Philex Mining Corp.

At the Aug. 14 recording ceremony, bystanders praised the swift and courageous efforts of the Benguet Corp. miners who were given memorandums and tokens. —Tina G. Santos

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Whistle-blower Jun Lozada welcomes graft probe

MUNTINLUPA (MANILA) "Jun" Lozada yesterday welcomed the filing of graft cases against him as the Sandiganbayan as an opportunity to shed light on the allegedly anomalous NBN-ZTE deal during the Arroyo administration.

"I welcome the opportunity to shed light on these cases that were part of a large number of harassment cases filed against me by GMA (Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) and her cohorts as a result of my decision to testify on the truth behind the NBN-ZTE deal. It was part of a package of bribes and threats that I was subjected to hide the truth," Lozada said in a statement.

Lozada said all his actions during his stint with the government had all been above board. "I am open to prosecuting it in a court by the court. I am confident that the truth shall be known during this period of openness under the P-Noy administration," he added.

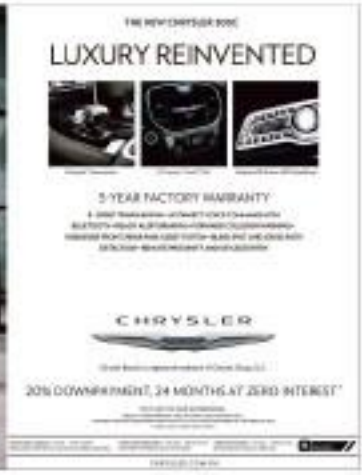
"My determination has not wavered and I am open to collaborate with the proper authorities to bring this case to its rightful conclusion," he said.

On Wednesday, the Office of the Ombudsman filed two cases of graft against Lozada at the Sandiganbayan for alleged corrupt practices while he was president and chief executive officer of the now-removed Philippine Forest Corp. (PFC) in 2005 and 2006.

Lozada was charged with violations of the Antigraft and Corrupt Practices Act, or Republic Act No. 3019, for leasing out public land to his brother and a private firm in which he had "a direct or indirect financial or pecuniary interest."

In the first case, the Ombudsman said that Lozada had unlawfully awarded the lease contract of a piece of land under the PFC's Lapang Filipino program to Fundacion Quiros, a private corporation in which he and his wife, Ma. Violeta, had been appointed to act for and in behalf of private financial corporations.

It said Lozada committed the offense while in the performance of his official functions as PFC head, taking advantage of his position, whose duties included the awarding of forest land rights to qualified beneficiaries.



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GMA doc fears 'worst'; immediate surgery urged

From page A1

Arroyo's condition unveiled, Aquino said, "a complete support structure" of specialists need be "repetitive reconstruction."

Each a team of experts—composed of a surgeon, neurophysiologist, biomedical engineer and medical researcher—is not available to the Philippines, Aquino said.

Independent verification

But a Malacañang affidavit said the government must independently verify the real state of Arroyo's health.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, a senior political adviser to President Aquino, said that once Arroyo's real condition is established, the government will need to determine if there are specialists and facilities in the country to continue caring for her here.

"If not, well and good; if no, then specialists and facilities be brought into the country to treat her?" Abad said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON JULY 20, 2011, former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo underwent a five-hour surgery on her cervical spine at St. Luke's Medical Center in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Her doctors said the prognosis for her recovery was "reasonable."

Days before the operation, her doctors said Arroyo needed surgery to realign a portion of her spine at the neck. They said she had "obliterated cervical spine" and "mobilized cervical spondylosis." Arroyo's condition may lead to "irreversible" paralysis if it was not treated immediately, the doctors said.

Cervical spondylosis, also called neck arthritis, is a degenerative condition of the cartilage and bones of the neck caused by the chronic erosion of the cervical spine. It is usually caused by age-related deterioration of the spine, and is the most common cause of spinal cord dysfunction in older adults.

On Aug. 10, 2011, Arroyo underwent a follow-up surgery but the nerves from operation failed due to a "very rare" infection that prevented the replacement of implants in her spine. Doctors said the infection "must be treated before a third surgery [could] be performed to install a new set of implants."

Arroyo went through a third surgery on Aug. 24, 2011. The operation was initially scheduled to be held the day before but Arroyo developed a fever, and the doctors decided to proceed only after her fever went down.

Sources: August 18 archives

Independent verification

But a Malacañang affidavit said the government must independently verify the real state of Arroyo's health.

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"If not, well and good; if no, then specialists and facilities be brought into the country to treat her?" Abad said.

The Inquirer tried to contact Arroyo's spokesperson, Elena Bautista-Horn, through her mobile phone but got no response.

Plates shifted

Arroyo had a quantum-CT scan in May which showed the titanium plates that had been implanted in her cervical spine had shifted.

She had a second quantum-CT scan in MMC on Aug. 14.

In a medical bulletin issued yesterday, Aquino said the results of the second scan showed that the 6-cm titanium plates and cages in Arroyo's neck had shifted some more since May further pushing into muscles and causing "protrusions" in the walls of her air and food conduits.

The protrusions, Aquino said, may result in abnormal breathing, leading to sudden disturbances of blood circulation and "sudden death."

Coronary blockages

Compounding Arroyo's difficulties were two blockages in her coronary vessels. Aquino said it was possible the pathway to the blockages were related to the coronary blockages.

Arroyo's inability to take in air and food properly may affect her blood circulation, he said.

Aquino said there was an "aggressive progress of the protrusions of both upper and lower plates" near Arroyo's voice box, which he described as a "very dangerous area."

The shifting of the titanium plates has caused Arroyo's voice pitch to change, and could be related to her weight loss, Aquino said.

Asked if Arroyo could travel and carry out her congressional duties, Aquino said: "She can travel. I will not wait for further complications."

Treatment in US, Austria

Aquino also recommended that Arroyo seek treatment in the United States and Austria, where experts are used to operating on scoliosis.

"This will be the fourth operation" involving Arroyo's titanium bone, Aquino said.

The titanium brace was placed in Arroyo's cervical spine last year to deal with compressed nerves in her neck, causing her severe pain in her arms.

Earlier this month, Arroyo was rushed to Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City after choking on a piece of melon.

The brace is apparently stabbing a cliff inside her larynx (voice box) and esophagus (food pipe), Aquino said. With a report from TJ Burgonio

Abalos posts bail; DOJ surprised

From page A1

sabotage case of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom the court allowed bail earlier.

"This is just a bail hearing. Until we are still going on the merits of the case," Bellaroso said.

'Premature' decision

But Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said she was surprised at how quick the Pasay court resolved Abalos' bail petition.

De Lima said the DOJ prosecutors on the Comelec prosecution team told her that they liked their sentiment on Abalos' petition late Thursday, but Mejes handed down his decision yesterday.

The decision came down at 1 p.m. yesterday and De Lima said she found it "premature."

De Lima said she believed Mejes had made up his mind even before the comment could be filed. She noted that the judge cited the prosecution's inability to establish Abalos' guilt clearly and his advanced age and poor health.

Order to cheat

"What happened in the conference of Election North Cotabato Division Supervisor Yusjel Montevirgen, which we think is very strong since she really pointed to Abalos as a major player in the manipulation of election results in [North] Cotabato?" De Lima asked.

In her testimony, Montevirgen alleged that Abalos gave her an order to cheat in favor of Arroyo's candidacy or her life would be endangered.

She said she was disappointed that the judge did not appreciate Montevirgen's testimony.

"We're lucky there's someone who's painting [at Abalos] based on personal knowledge," she said.

De Lima said she believed the charges against Abalos were strong, and that she told the DOJ prosecutors to strengthen the case during the trial.

"It doesn't mean that just because bail was granted, there's no more case. We remain hopeful that in the main trial we will still be able to get a conviction."

Not lack of substance

Bellaroso said Judge Mejes allowed Abalos's temporary liberty only on the ground of "weak evidence" presented during the bail hearing but did not say that the case lacked substance.

Judge Mejes may have said there was weak evidence but he did not say that we have a weak case against Abalos," Bellaroso said. "We haven't presented all our witnesses yet," he added.

As the trial proper proceeds next will present witnesses, mostly election officers and board of canvassers, in pin down Abalos, Bellaroso said.

One of those witnesses is Bhattalion, whom the court discharged from the case last month as an accused and allowed her to turn state witness against Abalos.

Bellaroso said the court's decision strongly indicated that the Comelec had a fighting chance to make Abalos liable for the electoral fraud in North and South Cotabato provinces in 2007.

"Why would the court allow Bhattalion to be discharged from the list of accused and be a state witness if it believes her testimony is weak?" Bellaroso asked.

Evidence not clear

In his decision to grant Abalos' bail petition, Judge Mejes cited the prosecution's failure to establish clearly the guilt of Abalos.

"Though ... evidence of guilt is present, it does not follow that the same is strong enough by itself to deny his admission to bail," Mejes said in his 5-page decision.

The judge said the court also considered the former Comelec chief's "advanced age and present health conditions."

Abalos is 76 years old and is in poor health.

Mejes said Abalos' continued detention would be "injustice to his health" and could even "endanger his life."

The court, Mejes said, found it "necessary to render justice with compassion."

Going home

Abalos received a copy of the order for his release at around 7 p.m., an hour after his lawyer Rubenn Barnaje paid the P1-million bail to the court. The bail was P600,000 for each of two counts of electoral sabotage brought against Abalos.

Branch 112 sheriff Rolando Bautista said Abalos was "very happy and excited" when he received the order to release his release.

Abalos arrived home in Mandaluyong City at around 8:30 p.m. and was greeted with cheers from about 200 supporters.

"I really did not feel that [bail] been in jail for eight months," Abalos said to his supporters. "Every day, I had a vision. The prosecutors were resting in vain stop."

Speaking in Filipino, Abalos thanked his supporters and promised them, "We will never part again."

The Comelec filed electoral sabotage charges against Abalos, former President Arroyo, former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. and former Maguindanao provincial election supervisor Lintang Bedol last year for allegedly conspiring to manipulate the results of the 2007 senatorial elections in North Cotabato and South Cotabato in favor of Arroyo's senatorial slate. With reports from Jerome Aning and Marlon Ramos

FOND FAREWELL Former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos exchanges high fives with one of the children living inside the police camp as he prepares to leave his detention quarters at the Southern Police District in Taguig City.

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Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Sayyaf tagged in Zamboanga bus blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police authorities yesterday tagged the Abu Sayyaf as responsible for Thursday night's explosion that hit a passenger bus and injured six people in Barangay Guiwan here.

Senior Supt. Aaron Mejia, city police chief, said another blast, which was still being determined if related to the 9:40 p.m. explosion aboard a third Tamaki Bus, took place around 11 p.m. near a mosque in Barangay Ituturiki, but no one was injured.

But the police elevated the alert level to a higher status because of the two incidents.

Mejia said witnesses to the third Tamaki explosion had provided the police description of the two suspected bombers, which led to the conclusion it was the handiwork of the Basilan group.

Based on the description provided by the bus passengers and the bus personnel, Obeir profiki Ettol (boss of the people we are hunting down and they are members of the Abu Sayyaf Group," Mejia told the reporters.

He did not specify who among those being hunted down resembled the suspects.

The Tamaki Transit bus was going into the Guiwan Bus Terminal from Pagadian City when an explosion at its rear portion took place.

Among the six passengers injured was 2-year-old Mark Owen Mercado. Mejia said the victims were brought to the hospital.

The other injured victims were Rolando Padilan, 32; Sheryl Posadas; Boris Gatchalian, 36; Daniel Pilotan, 22, and Rachelle Sompo.

During the initial investigation, Mejia said witnesses told the police that the two suspects boarded the bus in Barangay Culianan. They later disembarked when the bus was nearing the bus terminal.

"[The blast] ripped off the rear end of the bus, including its baggage compartments," he said as he described how powerful the explosion was.

Mejia said police bomb experts were still trying to gather evidence that could help them identify what type of bomb was used in the Ituturiki attack.

He said that while the investigation on the bus explosion was fueling rumors that the Abu Sayyaf had set off a mosque in Isabela around 11 p.m., No one was injured in the second explosion, which occurred some 100 meters away from a police outpost.

Mejia said the explosions took place amid intelligence reports the Abu Sayyaf would be staging bomb attacks here.

Mejia, meanwhile, said the police remained nowhere assigned on Leonor Island have following reports of sightings of armed men coming from the nearby town of Tungawan in Zamboanga Sibugay.

But he said it appeared that the reported movement of the armed men and the explosions were unrelated. —*Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

La Union placed under calamity state

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The La Union capitol was bustling in some quarters on Thursday, when just the day before, most of the downtown areas were flooded for the first time in recent years.

At least 169 villages in 12 La Union towns and this city were under water due to Tropical Storm "Helen" when it crossed northern Luzon on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A report of the La Union Disaster Operation Center showed that 5,335 people had to be relocated to 40 evacuation centers. They have all returned home.

The floods started to rise on Sunday midnight due to heavy rains dumped by Helen on its approach, and rains continued for days.

The province had been placed under a state of calamity last week due to the heavy monsoon rains.

"It has been raining for the past weeks before the floods came. Roads and bridges already have since two weeks ago. Our plight had not drawn attention. Many residents were already affected and needed help and we needed to use the calamity fund," said Vice Gov. Aries Nisay.

He said the floods may be the worst yet to hit the province because "some areas which were not prone to flooding got flooded, and some areas, which had not experienced landslides, [suffered] landslides."

"There was just too much [rain] water that San Fernando's drainage system could not contain the [runoff] water," he said.

Worse than 'Pepeng'

Alona Ball of La Union's land area is mountainous and serves as watershed, said provincial information officer Admore Dagang. But the denuded mountains of those mountain ranges could have worsened the floods, he said.

Many residents have said the Aug. 14-15 floods were worse than the impact of Typhoon "Pepeng" which struck in October 2009.

Ella Margarita Ramirez, 74, said Barangay Sumiasbasan in Bacnotan town, where she has lived all her life, was flood-prone. This was why when the water started rising, she at first refused to transfer to the house of Dagang, her son-in-law, admitting as a second floor.

"I was afraid as I waded through chest-deep flood to transfer to another house," she said.

Dagang said that kind of rain was unexpected because the weather bureau issued only the yellow alert in the province, meaning there would be moderate to light rains. "But the rain was continuous and torrential," he said.

La Trinot's lone locality where Helen struck was not due to floods but to landslides. Two people died in Bangar town was electrocuted on Wednesday when the tree branch as he was cutting touched a live wire.

P2-M crop losses

Nisay has from Helen's floods were 25 barangays of San Fernando, 25 of Sugallon, 21 of Agoo, 18 of Caba, 14 of Sto. Tomas, 14 of Bangar, 10 of Luna and 10 of Tubao.

La Union lost P2,184,239 worth of crops, mostly rice and vegetables.

The provincial government's banner and riprap fingerlings projects was also damaged. La Union lost 6,000 bangus fingerlings worth P113,000 and 18,000 tilapia fingerlings worth P27,000. Melaida Sotelo, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Build a new Hall of Justice, Iloilo judges urge

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Decrying their "dilapidated" working conditions, judges, lawyers and court employees in Iloilo have upgraded to President Aquino, the Supreme Court and legislators to build a new Hall of Justice in Iloilo City.

They asked the government to allot funds for a new building to replace the Chief Justice Q. Ramon Avanceña Hall of Justice that was condemned due to damage from the Feb. 6 earthquake that hit parts of the Visayas.

They noted that the temporary offices, where the courts and other offices were transferred since March this year were "deplorable, if not catastrophic." These also pose security risks to court personnel and records, they added.

"Please consider the discomfort and inconvenience in the administration of justice and public service," they said in the manifesto.

Among those who signed were judges of the 17 Regional Trial Court (RTC) branches and the state-sanctioned Green Trial Court (GTC) branches.

Only one RTC judge was not able to sign the manifesto, said Pedilio Ialbuyan, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Iloilo chapter.

He said the judge was attending an out-of-town seminar and was not reached on time before the release of the manifesto.

The signatories include officers of the IBP Women Lawyers Association of the Philippines, and Philippine Association of Court Employees; regional, provincial and city state prosecutors, and the Public Attorney's Office.

The court branches and offices at the Chief Justice Q. Ramon Avanceña Hall of Justice were transferred to three separate locations after the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) declared the 20-year-old building unsafe due to structural defects.

The 13 RTC branches and the office of the Philippine Mediation Center were transferred to the building of the defunct De Paul College in Jaro district. The school closed down last year.

On the other hand, the city prosecutor's office and five RCTC branches were transferred to the Iloilo provincial number, second Tuesday of each month. Contact Tim Gonzales from the RTC Executive.

The regional and provincial state prosecutors and the IBP are holding office at the Iloilo Sports Complex, around 3 km from the RTC branches.

The PTC judges have complained that their temporary offices were near a dirty creek, "which emits an unpleasant smell and facilities could not cater to the needs of all."

They said the construction of a new building of the earliest possible time was urgent "in order to avoid the erosion of public confidence in the quality of the administration of justice in this part of the country."

The signatories of the manifesto also appealed to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, and representatives of Iloilo's six congressional districts to help in the construction of a new Hall of Justice.

The DPWH is undertaking a study on the defects of the building, in preparation for plans to repair the building.

But the judges, lawyers, prosecutors and court employees have simply said that they would feel unsafe to work again in the old building that was already condemned for structural defects.

They have also called for an investigation for possible irregularities in the construction of the P200-million building.

The building was constructed in 1992 under the administration of the late President Corazon Aquino. Drilon was justice secretary at that time.

Military statement on Kato gunmen mixing with evacuees worries UNHCR

COTABATO CITY—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was concerned about a recent military statement that said fleeing gunmen under Ameril Umra Kato had mixed with evacuees in various evacuation centers in Maguindanao.

Adrian Edwards, UNHCR head of office in Mindanao, said in a written statement on Thursday that the military pronouncements worsened the situation of evacuees.

"The situation of these displaced and host communities is becoming more fragile as the conflict continues. The [displaced] are unable to return home safely because of the conflict, especially in Maguindanao. At the same time, they fear that the evacuation centers will become more unsafe as tension escalates that armed men are staying there," Ado said.

Reiley, Col. Prudencio Asto, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said some members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), who had fled pursuing soldiers after the fall of their camp last week, are now hiding in evacuation centers in the towns of Shariff Aguak, Datu Unsay, Datu Saudi, Datu Hoffer and Mamasapano after they broke from their groups.

"Some of them are now in the evacuation centers. But by all means, we will get them to face the consequences of their acts," Asto said.

Asto added that legitimate evacuees nothing refuge in the said areas had nothing to worry about as the military would be discriminate in its hunt for Kato's men inside evacuation centers.

He said the military would coordinate with social workers to determine who the legitimate evacuees were and pin down members of the BIFF posing as among them displaced by clashes that started Aug. 5.

Some 83,000 people have been displaced by the encircling violence, the UNHCR noted.

"The evacuation sites are cramped and sometimes eight to 10 families are forced to share a room. Consequently, proper sanitation and other facilities are severely lacking. If the circumstances are forced to remain in the [evacuation centers] longer, we fear that the situation will become even worse for them," Ado said.

He said the UNHCR was hoping the situation would normalize so the evacuees could return to their homes.

On Thursday, suspected BIFF members ambushed and killed three people, including a barangay councilor of Datumalem, said Senior Insp. Jeoffrey Sanchez, police chief of Mamasapano, South Cotabato.

But Sanchez said the incident was not related to the Maguindanao attacks staged by the BIFF. The ambush then killed Datumalem Councilor Freddie Macato, his wife Polay, and an Edgar Pacheco, was staggered by a head, he said.

Mamasapano Mayor Elsie Lucille Pesner urged Tamadaw residents to stay calm and said "it was just an isolated incident."

The death toll in the Maguindanao clashes has risen to over 80, Asto said. Of the death toll, five were soldiers and a similar number consisted of civilians.

Yesterday, three more soldiers were wounded when BIFF forces attacked a military detachment in Barangay Bagan in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao, an officer Mohammad Ishmin Bernardo with a report from Agailes Zonio, *Inquirer Mindanao*

Laguna gov on flood control project: 'Finally'

AERIAL shots show flooded areas at the boundary of Malolos, Laguna, and Pililla, Rizal, on Aug. 12.

By Philip Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Laguna Gov. Jeorge "ER" Ejercito, who earlier lamented the dredging of Laguna de Bay underscored the planned reconstruction of a "2.2-kilometer [underground] spillway to pump out excess water from the heavily-silted lake.

"Finally, a permanent solution to the flooding," he said.

Ejercito noted how during the 1972 Typhoon Luding, which caused widespread flood-ravished metro-wide, the spillway project was already included in the 1972 Master plan of the Department of Public Works and Highways, the spillway to above "priority" project of the national government to address the perennial flooding.

The spillway is different from the ring road dike to be built along Laguna de Bay that President Aquino had announced during the visit to evacuation centers in Marikina, Quezon City, Valenzuela and Navotas last week.

"After Tropical Storm 'Gener,' I had a meeting with [Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA)] General Manager [Director] Acosta. He said the project will begin as lahing modeling pumabon (point)," Ejercito said.

Acosta is the presidential adviser on environmental protection and LLDA general manager.

Ejercito said the underground spillway from Laguna de Bay would run through Muntinlupa City, Imus and run up to Manila Bay.

He said the spillway project would cost P5 billion and would be funded with a grant from the South Korean government.

Based on his meeting with Acosta, "the construction will be completed in two years or before President Aquino's term is up," Ejercito said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

He said the specifics of the project, such as the volume of water the spillway would pump out, would be discussed in their future meetings.

Rizal Gov. Casimiro "Jun-Jun" Ynares Jr. said he "personally" thought the project would be beneficial although they have not yet fully discussed the details in the provincial government.

Laguna and Rizal provinces share portions of the 90,000-hectare Laguna lake.

The lake's water level stayed at 11.66 meters as of Thursday morning, a little less than the 12.95 meter-water level during Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009.

The provincial and regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council on Friday reported 17,190 families (including evacuation centers) in Laguna and around 12,000 families in Rizal.

In an interview on Wednesday, Jennifer Galintero, officer of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development, said their latest records showed 209,209 persons confirmed to be affected by floodwaters in 171 barangays in Laguna.

In Rizal, still submerged in flood were Montalban, San Mateo, Cainta, Pililla and Angono, said a report from its provincial government site (Rizalnet.ph). With a report from Jhonnalis Soria, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Mayor sues radiomen for gay tag

By Felipe V. Cobra
Inquirer Visayas

BOHOL CITY—A radio broadcaster and the manager of a radio station here are facing two counts of libel because the former has portrayed the mayor as gay among other things.

City Mayor Angel Alan Cobra filed the libel suits against Salvador Luposlie Jr. and Rudie Mendanas Sevarath (DMPC-dyVR station manager Eleazer Alcaria with the Bohol City Prosecutor's Office on Tuesday afternoon.

Luposlie is a blocktimer for Ilgaw Kita Dapit (UKD), a local political party whose members have run against Liberal Party (LP) candidates.

In his 15-page complaint, the mayor said Luposlie maligned him during the latter's radio program, "Mr. Bataslo," saying the mayor has been seen visiting gay bars in Iloilo City during Thursdays and Fridays.

Cobra further claimed that Cobra has been arrested for jaywalking, the mayor said in his complaint.

In his blocktimer program aired July 28, 2012, Luposlie said the mayor and Bohol City Councilor Matthew James Rivera went to a gay bar named "Passion" in Iloilo City using a government vehicle, the mayor added.

The blocktimer further made insinuations and vulgar impressions by saying that "the mayor and Rivera were while having sex partner."

Cobra denied all Luposlie's accusations. "I did not go to gay bars in Iloilo City or elsewhere. Neither have I gone to this place of ill repute with Councilor Matthew Rivera," he added.

Alcaria was included in the libel suit because, as manager of DMPC-dyVR, he allegedly allowed Luposlie full access and exposure, only to use the radio station to malign the mayor.

However, the station manager said he had sent a memorandum to Luposlie questioning him on the words he was using. However, Luposlie still continued his attacks against the Cobras.

"I have done my part to remind him through a series of verbal and written instructions. But he still continued his attacks on the public and enemies of Ugnayan Kita Cupin," Alcaria added.

Alcaria said he would face the consequences of Luposlie's action, adding that he wanted to show the Carpenian duo democracy is alive in Cupin.

Cupinlet also urged his accusers to quash the motion manager from the case.

Cobra is asking for P2 million in moral damages from each of Luposlie and Alcaria.

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Land reform beneficiaries get tractors

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD, 12TH—The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has given P46.2-million assistance to 12 agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) groups in Negros Occidental to help them sustain the productivity and viability of their sugar lands.

Undersecretary Jocely Pastrana of the DAR Support Services on Wednesday said the DAR would provide the ARB-cane tractor each costing P3.85 million in a total of cost of P34.2 million.

Pastrana said the ARBs are also required to spend at least 25 percent of the acquisition cost of each tractor for the improvement of their operations, such as the construction of farm sheds and the purchase of farm tools.

"The tractor is a grant from the government and a business asset that they can use for their productivity improvement and for building their organization," he said.

Hidronio added that each ARB would at an get P1 million each to be used for organizational development and empowerment.

This would be on top of P1 billion at the Land Bank of the Philippines available to ARBs for production loans, Hidronio added.

The DAR, along with the Sugar Regulatory Administration, is encouraging agrarian reform beneficiaries to engage to block farming to lessen their production (not more to survive layout) 100% when tariffs on imported sugar would be lifted, Pastrana said.

Each ARB group has 20 or more members covering more than 50 hectares, he said.

The DAR would be providing a package of support services to ARBs to ensure that they survive immediately after they are awarded their share of the land, Pastrana said.

Stronger Family Ties with Kumon

Like all parents, Judge Armand Macandog of Digos City wants his only son Muhammad Ariane Rahim "Rocky" to succeed in life. Like most parents, he wants to provide the best opportunity for his child to grow and develop.

With this in mind, Judge Macandog took a great opportunity when he enlisted Rocky in the Kumon Math Fun Time! program. Similar to other parents, he believes that education is the key to a brighter future. Although Rocky is already an academic achiever and a book-worm like other kids, he also likes to play video and Internet games and said that not Time, parental support is still necessary.

Judge Macandog recalled that this idea was discussed with him and his wife during The Fun Trial.

"Indeed, we have been told that the Kumon Method basically requires parents to be actively involved, considering that worksheets study is carried out daily at home. We learned that in Kumon, home study is essential in nurturing good study habits and preparing ourselves in the program."

Realizing how important their participation will be, he further contemplated when he eventually enrolled Rocky after the Fun Trial. How far to what extent will parents get themselves involved? How much parents will they put on their child? With Rocky, they experimented carefully by learning from their daily experiences, adjusting when it is necessary and keeping their minds on one goal which was to maximize his potential, without taking away his childhood. He recalled, "We had to set our priorities. Rocky's school work, his Kumon study, my wife's work—each need to be prioritized. But we had to make sure schedules, if not done on very own hours, are way that Rocky's Kumon would fit in and even take precedence over all our other priorities."

As Rocky progressed through the Kumon program, the tough balancing act gradually became less difficult. This was because Kumon became a part of their daily routine and there was the effectiveness of the program on Rocky's studies was very apparent. All this became everything ground to be worth it when Rocky completed the Kumon Math Program which enrolled even at the early age of six years old. He was already capable of doing tackling university math materials, including calculus.

But beyond what Rocky was able to achieve, for Judge Macandog, the biggest benefit that they have gained from Kumon is the strengthening of the relationship between them, the parents, and Rocky.

He shared that "Our relationship became better and stronger like in a very absolute. Loving and respectful son. Since, we believe, we made he got from me or whenever he let Kumon study. We got to understand him better than we would ordinarily have had he not taken up Kumon."

Follow more inspiring stories at http://ph.kumongbbal.com. For more information about Kumon and the 1-week Free Trial! program, visit any of the Kumon Centers nearest you or call (02) 885-8558 or 5486. 1-800-6431 toll-free outside Metro Manila. For students from Visayas and Mindanao, you may call (032) 336-1367.

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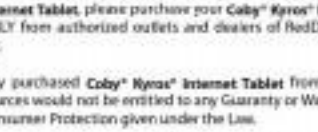

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Connie B. Fernandez

Dream climb tests Cebu Boy Scouts

By Bernadeth S. Rosales
Contributor

AT A GLANCE, he looks like a typical 11-year-old boy who loves to watch cartoon shows, read fantasy books, and eat good food.

But Loj-Anj Amit is no ordinary boy.

He is the youngest Filipino Boy Scout to reach the summit of the 4,095-meter Mount Kinabalu in Sabah, Malaysia, considered the tallest mountain in Southeast Asia.

"Climbing Mt. Kinabalu was awesome! Up there, you can see the whole island of Borneo," exclaimed Loj, a Grade 6 pupil of Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu (SHS-ADC) in Barangay Camputhaw, Mandaue City in Cebu.

It had been a dream of his and since 2009 to become the first Filipino Boy Scout team to reach the mountain peak. That time was in June.

After a two-day climb, the 13-person Boy Scout team from SHS-ADC reached the top of Kinabalu on June 8.

Aside from Loj, the team members were Jacques Gonzales, 13; Zai Lim, 13; Timothy Webster, 13; Ray Rocera, 16; Mary Bolde, 16; Hester Tiron, 14; JC Abellanosa, 15; Cezar Hawthorne, 16; and Hannah Awit of his younger and only son. Jerome, an engineer, and wife Liezl, a businesswoman, have two other children—Rejzl, 19, and Jerol, 15.

Jerome pointed out that even in taekwondo competitions, Loj would never back out even when his opponents were bigger or better than him.

Loj, a black-belter, plays for the varsity team.

Jerome said he wasn't surprised when he learned that his son pushed on even when his taekwondo mentor told him to not proceed to the climb to Kinabalu's peak. After all, Loj always gives his 100 percent in anything that he does.

School activities

His week is usually full, except on Sundays. From Mondays to Saturdays, he is preoccupied with his duties as president of Magis Society-Grade School Student Council of SHS-ADC and assistant senior patrol leader of the Boy Scout unit.

Although he has taekwondo practices, Loj studies his lessons and does schoolwork from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. from Sundays to Thursdays.

Despite his extracurricular activities, he continues to do well academically. He is a consistent gold medalist for academics until the top stenographer of his batch since first grade, where he always represents his school in competitions. He ranks seventh out of more than 200 students in his grade level.

Loj acknowledged that he had little time to play. "In fact, I had only one day of summer vacation because I had to train for the leader's council of Boy Scout right away," he said. "But I still love to play PS3, though, whenever I get time."

Family support

He said it was also difficult for him to focus because he has many activities to attend to. Fortunately, his parents help him balance his activities and make sure that he still has time to study.

It is also a big factor that his family has always been supportive of him and his plans. "I am not afraid to fail because they are always there to comfort me," he added.

Jerome explained that he and Liezl always made sure that they could support any activity that could help build Loj-Anj's character.

One of these was the Brownbelt climb, where the goal was to conquer oneself by reaching the Boy Scouts teamwork and perseverance.

L-AJ AMIT (in red jacket and trousers) and the rest of the Boy Scout team from Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu proudly display the flags of their school and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines upon reaching the summit of Mt. Kinabalu in Malaysia last June. (Contributed photo)

AWIT receives a gold medal for academics during the School Honors Assembly at Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu on June 26. With him are his parents—mother Liezl and father Jerome.

The climb was steep. They had to use ropes for support. But after four hours of "very hard climb," the team finally made it.

To "freeze the moment," the group took photos, displaying the flags of SHS-ADC and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. They stayed for a few minutes to relish the breathtaking view.

As he was walking down, a realization hit Loj: his mountain goal the challenges can be is one he overcame by taking one small step at a time.

"It is better to move slowly to get things done, than to think of great things and not do anything at all," Loj said. The boy intends to be an engineer and build houses for the poor.

Bernadeth S. Rosales is a third year AB Mass Communication student of the University of the Philippines College Cebu (UPCC). She is the literary editor of "Tug-ani," official student publication of UPCC.

NOTICE

IAME still open and operating CHED order to close 3 degrees, not IAME as school, no finality yet IAME appeal still pending in SC

The International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME [eye-aim]) remains untouched, open, operating, and admitting foreign and Filipino students in its newly innovative international degree programs recognized by the World Education Service (WES), New York, USA, by granting equivalency to IAME international degree programs as equivalent to similar degrees granted by accredited U.S. universities.

WES, the oldest and most prestigious equivalency organization, is used by the U.S. and Canadian governments, multinational and large corporations in processing applicants for jobs presenting foreign diplomas. BSBA, MBA, and Ph.D. in Management of IAME have been declared by WES as equivalent to similar degrees granted by accredited U.S. universities and all were employed by the U.S. and Canadian governments, and some multinational corporations as country managers. Each graduate has to apply to WES for equivalency individually, not the school.

The international degrees of IAME is a continuation/ ladderization of the International Baccalaureate (IB) offered by foreign schools like International School, Brent, British, and Euro schools. The IAME global degrees are International BBA, International MBA, International Ph.D. in Management, International Ph.D. in Political Economy and Geopolitics. Foreign students may take/submit visa since their equivalency will come from WES, USA.

The appeal of IAME to the Supreme Court is kept alive by the IAME Motion for Reconsideration filed on July 30, 2012 and the Supplemental Motion for Reconsideration filed on August 16, 2012 anchored on the constitutional province granting jurisdiction to the Supreme Court to petition/appeal raising issues limited to questions of law. On July 4, 2012, the 3rd Division of the Supreme Court issued a resolution absolving Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and his legal assistant from grave abuse of discretion for refusing to uphold the supremacy of the Constitution granting the President of the Philippines control over all departments, bureaus and offices over a section of R.A. No. 7722 creating CHED and a section of the New Administrative Law. The 3rd division ruled for dismissal only on procedural ground to force IAME to bring its appeal to the Court of Appeals but did not rule on the merits of the case, that is, the CHED Closure Order is a violation of the right to property of IAME ever its government-recognized BSBA, MBA, and Ph.D. in Management degrees by not observing administrative due process required by the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools and Section 1, Article III, Bill of Rights of the Constitution. The CHED Closure Order was on the three degrees, not the closure of IAME as a school. On July 31, 2012, IAME received an Order from the 3rd Division of SC requiring it to submit a photocopy of the Ochoa ruling, which IAME submitted to the SC on August 8, 2012.

By reason of these developments, there is yet no finality in the CHED Closure Order of the three degree programs on the macro level of the judicial system. The claim of CHED Chairman Patricia Licuanan that there is already "finality" in her Order is only on the micro level within the confines of CHED. Licuanan is only trying to close the BSBA, MBA, Ph.D. in Management, which her technical panel did not observe or made any findings on its "efficiency, quality and relevance in providing educational services." IAME's Ph.D. in Management is the "leader in the industry" as shown by the fact that a dean of DLSU, two assistant deans of Ateneo Graduate School of Business, presidents, owners, deans, directors, and professors of other colleges and universities obtained their Ph.D. in Management degree from IAME, not to mention diplomats, ASB and World Bank officers and country managers of multinational corporation.

The irony in this case is that Atty. Emmanuel To Santos, Ph.D., IAME founding president, chairman-CEO, was a hostile witness in the Senate impeachment hearings of CJ Renato Corona. Neil Santos is an original founding member of Ninoy Aquino's LABAN 21 and the one assigned by Ninoy to announce all over metro Manila the historic Rose Barrage of April 8, 1970 during the struggle under martial law to restore freedom and democracy to the Filipino nation and the Philippines. Those harassing him now is the midst of the presidency of Pilipinyano collaborators and sympathizers of the martial law regime.

PAID ADVT

Woman to replace recalled Cambodian envoy to PH

By Tarra Quismundo

GOOD relations between the Philippines and Cambodia will continue after all, with Phnom Penh sending a "high-ranking" diplomat to Manila to replace the ambassador it recently recalled for making remarks that did not help ease tensions over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario announced yesterday that the Cambodian foreign ministry had selected a female diplomat to replace Sou Soreyrotheth, the ambassador recalled earlier this month after issuing a letter accusing the Philippines and Vietnam of "dirty politics" in pushing for a united stand by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) on their territorial disputes with China in the West Philippine Sea.

Female diplomat

The Cambodian foreign ministry provided little details, but Del Rosario said Phnom Penh has chosen "a lady (but's quite high in the ministry" to replace Soreyrotheth, who reportedly left Manila earlier this week.

"She's of assistant secretary rank now. She has to present an agreement," Del Rosario said, referring to the document that incoming chiefs of mission present to host countries as diplomatic accreditation.

The receiving country has the discretion whether to accept an agreement. But Rosario said he saw no problem about the document.

Recall

Cambodia recalled Sou Soreyrotheth shortly after Manila protested his remarks accusing the Philippines and Vietnam of pressuring the Asean to take what he described as an "inflexible and incompatible" position on the West Philippine Sea dispute.

Sou Soreyrotheth's letter was published in a Manila newspaper in response to Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Erlinda Basilio's article "What happened in Phnom Penh," which sought to school Sou on Asean's failure to issue a customary joint statement after its 45th foreign ministerial meeting in Phnom Penh in July.

Basilio's article was published in major Philippine dailies.

In his strongly worded letter, Sou Soreyrotheth blamed the failure on the insistence of the Philippines and Vietnam to have their disputes with China mentioned in the joint statement.

Moving on

His letter was published just as the Philippines was trying to move on after the failure in Phnom Penh.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) summoned Sou Soreyrotheth and handed him a note demanding an explanation for his remarks. But he never showed up at the DFA. He instead sent his second-in-command, Tay Chanlinmonth.

DFA officials earlier said that they were optimistic Philippine-Cambodian relations would remain strong despite the incident.

No work slowdown, airport protesters vow

IMMIGRATION, customs and quarantine officers assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) yesterday assured the public that they will not neglect their duties amid their continuing "silent protest" against the decision of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to suspend their overtime pay.

"Our work here continues; there's no work slowdown," Immigration Officers Association of the Philippines president Ferdinand Trenkwalla told reporters.

For the second day, immigration, customs and quarantine officers at Terminal 1 continued to display yellow ribbons on the sleeves of their uniforms. At Terminals 2 and 3, the officers were red and blue armbands.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said she was assured by Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. that the situation on the ground would not be worse than it already is.

De Lima said she was reassured that immigration personnel might be remiss in their duties, especially with the President's order of an intensified manhunt against prominent fugitives who might try to sneak out of the country.

She said immigration employees and other government personnel at the airport have "very vital functions" and they would be "serious consequences" if they abandon their posts, stage a strike or slow down their work.

"They have the right as an government and undertake certain activities but as an very well know, they have no right to abandon their posts or slow down work; otherwise, that would open them to administrative and criminal charges under the Revised Penal Code," De Lima said.

She said she hopes the officers' protests would be resolved through dialogue.

The officers complained about the DOTC decision suspending their overtime pay beginning August, apparently because of the board of airline representatives and the Airline Operators Council.

The immigration and quarantine officers said overtime pay was justified since they work beyond regular hours and even during holidays, as in the case of Eid'l Fitr, to serve arriving international passengers.

The airline executives, however, said the payment for overtime was no longer justifiable after the government agencies have instituted 24-hour work shifts at NAIA.

Jerome Aning

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Party-list group defends Tingting's nomination

THE LAWYER of Marjen Magnaye-Jo Pamela ng Yeng ng Nhan (Abante) yesterday said the nomination of former Tarlac governor Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco was done in accordance with the provisions of the party-list law.

Manuelito Luna issued the statement in response to criticisms made by Ramon Ilusa and Bilang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (BMP) activist groups against politicians and their relatives whose names appear as nominees of some party-list organizations.

"Former Governor Cojuangco possesses all the qualifications for nomination and none of the disqualifications raised by Ramon Ilusa and BMP groups," he stressed.

According to Luna, Cojuangco is an active member of AKMA-PTM.

"Cojuangco has been working as a researcher and an advocate of various projects of the organization long before she was considered as a nominee," he added.

Luna cited Cojuangco's role in increasing agricultural production in Tarlac when she was governor.

"Food security was the cornerstone of her administration," he pointed out.

Luna said that—during Cojuangco's term as governor—rice production increased significantly, shallow and deep well construction were given priority, irrigation systems were improved and effective marketing strategies were implemented, which greatly benefited the farmers in Tarlac.

Also for consideration from pollen, Cojuangco became a registered voter in Zone Orbit, Hamtramck, Michigan, where she owns a house and has established residence since 1999 up to the present.

She authored several books on Mindanao and its people, including dissertations on Mindanaoans, particularly Muslims who consider her as one of their own.

Long retired from politics, Cojuangco accepted the AKMA-PTM nomination because of the pending and endorsements by party-list members from Aklan Sadeng and Dato Odin Sinsuat, Luna said.

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OPINION

Send letters to the Editor: inquirer.opinion@gmail.com; fax 896-0997

Jailhouse rock

EDITORIAL

ELVIS PRESLEY with his rock 'n' roll imagination would have found it a stretch: convicted killer Robin Go disappearing from the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) Tuesday evening and reemerging on Wednesday night, claiming that he was kidnapped along with his nephew right from under the noses of his jailers, taken to a house in Batangas, and given the scare of his life until he was released after supposed payment of ransom (since denied by his wife). What a horrid story.

The escapade has left the NBP, Philippine National Police, and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) looking like a confederacy of dunces. The wonder is that top officials have managed to maintain a straight face despite the disgraceful episode. NBP superintendent Richard Schwarzkopf said Go was considered an "escapee," but expressed puzzlement as to why he would flee given that he was scheduled for release next year on parole. BuCor Director Gaudencio Pangilinan has made himself scarcer after issuing statements that Go had escaped and was not abducted. Of course, the statements from prison officials are self-serving. They would rather have Go an escaped convict rather than a victim of abduction because it would put the onus of the blame on him. But either way, they have much deeper into the ruts of their incompetence. Heads must roll, foremost of which are Pangilinan's and Schwarzkopf's.

Malacañang has directed the Department of Justice and National Bureau of Investigation to look into Go's disappearance. But PNP Director General Nicanor Bartolome has expressed interest in the case because of the jailbreak and alleged abduction, which are both police concerns. He has contradicted the escape theory, explaining that photos of evidence recovered by the police were consistent with Go's kidnapping claim. The car that was supposedly used in the abduction, owned by Cleonavie Yu, Go's nephew and personal nurse, was found in Barangay by local police early on Thursday. An empty shell was found in the car, consistent with Go's statement that his abductors had fired shots there. Go also said he was hit on the back of his head by one of the abductors; medical personnel have detailed no that injury.

Go is afflicted with colon cancer and has a colostomy bag strapped to his person. This factor is among those being cited for the supposed implausibility of his escape. Still, his disappearance is nothing new. Sentenced to life imprisonment for killing college student Eldon Maguan in a fit of road rage in July 1991, he has been doing time at the NBP for 18 years. He escaped from the Nueva provincial jail on Nov. 1, 1993, days before his sentencing, but was recaptured. A "living-out" prisoner, he has reportedly been going in and out of the NBP compound even without authorization from the justice secretary. It is said that BuCor officials condone his leaving the NBP to tend to his money-lending business which has its office in Soldiers' Hills in Muntinlupa City. In fact, the man also has a thriving land-car enterprise directly connected to his money-lending, and is engaged in buy-and-sell activities, the most recent involving bamboo poles.

It's common knowledge that VIP prisoners in the NBP enjoy certain privileges. Go's disappearance happened more than a year after former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste's trip out of the heavily guarded prison. Leviste, who was convicted of killing his long-time friend and aide in 2009, was arrested outside a building he owns in Makati City. That caper prompted Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and the BuCor to implement reforms in the NBP, including the dismantling of wealthy prisoners' private quarters and the suspension of "living out" privileges for some inmates.

But what's new is that Go was spirited out of jail purportedly by kidnappers? Inquirer sources said Go's supposed abduction could be related to his money-lending business. The story goes that among those who owe him are patron officials themselves, who have been complaining about the high interest that he collects from borrowers. In fact, the Aguet military retirees were pushed to ask his boss were actually "represented" by him from borrowers who had failed to make good on their loans. The plot thickens.

"Imagine, kidnapped right in the NBP!" exclaimed De Lima. "Only in the Philippines!" We can only agree: Even prison is more fun in this country.

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Obsolete reform tool?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

TO JUMP-START the long-stalled freedom of information bill, journalists designated Aug. 11 as "FOI Day." They "pledged to publish and upload a 'pooled editorial'" to prod a thrifty House of Representatives to act. Mr. Gene Dayo ran the tent in key cybants (no. Truth, pass the FOI in tent!" Inquirer, 8/10/10).

The first-ever pooled-editorial in local cyberspace declared that "Campus intermittent [sic] rot" at the then decaying "New Society" 40 dollars ran it on the same day. Radio stations broadcasted the text. Among early die-news had on the block their TV news programs. President Ferdinand Marcos went ballistic.

At the Philippine Press Institute, we collected drafts that publishers like-pre-called. Nib were a set behind the ears pooled. let them. Our job included counting that the pooled editorial did not run on telegram. The editorial set a precedent. But the innovative didn't fully register on us, a president's, then.

Malacañang phone calls went to business members with less grit than Joaquin "Chino" Roces. When a follow-up pooled editorial was proposed, the date defiance evening Nieves family hailed out. Others waffled. Thus, a second pooled editorial never materialized.

History got his pound of flesh under Proclamation 1081. He jailed Roces and Manila Chronicle publisher Eugenio Lopez. He published Lopez's media empire, the Philippines Free Press, the Graphic, and ironically even the papers that fuelled, in between, he enticed publishers into his camp.

As an Institute meeting in the old Capitol Publishing composed, Manila Bulletin's Hans Menzi revealed that he had signed on as Marcos' senior military aide. There was rumored balance. In the presiding officer's chair, then-University of the Philippines president Carlos P. Romulo shifted uneasily. Chino Roces wished his eyes. Philippine News Herald's Romeo Chanlatte gave him coffee.

"If you were publishing laundry lists, I'd have no objection," the soulful Don Ramon Roces finally said. "But Hans, my friend, you're publishing a newspaper."

Viewpoint

The rest is now history, including the November 2005 Supreme Court decision that declared: "[M]illions Manila ballots shames were the "ill-gotten wealth of the defendant Marcos spouses." Singapore's Supreme Court ruled, this week, that $35 million in seabed Marcos assets be returned to Philippine National Bank.

Technology ownership of cyberspace is what "pooled editorial." But Viral, for example, periodically runs a pooled editorial in its intellectual network members. World metropolitan publishers, of varying persuasions and economic structure, agree on a pool? Meanwhile, Twitter and Facebook impinge on newsrooms. In this "pool" an outdated "newsroom of her room"?

The medium is not the message, as today's controversy over the FOI bill shows. Information inflows to transparency, the anchor of good governance. Section 7 of the Constitution provides for the citizen's right to public information. State policy seeks full disclosure of transactions involving public interest.

After dawdling for months, President Aquino—who pledged in his campaign to press for an FOI bill—gave the green light for the measure in January. "The acknowledgment by him by reformers in the executive branch, namely Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad and Information Undersecretary Manuel L. Quezon III," said The Right to Know Right Now Coalition.

That version of relief came from being saddled by experience. The congressional allies of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sabotaged the FOI bill in the 14th Congress. On closing day, Pangasinan bogwhite Chiefmen and Pedro Normandie (Cantopia) led a coalition that killed the FOI. It needed merely a few minutes for ratification, but the regime behind the old dodge of quorum-busting the quorum.

Only 138 House members showed up—seven short of the 145 needed to achieve a 2/3rds majority. After the "slaughter," journalists invited text messages from the House leadership to stay away. Then, 140 truants swaggled the FOI.

The day after the House strangled the bill, President Aquino pledged to bail Gawad De FOI. Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada predicted on early approval of a watershed measure. That'll make the FOI the "very first legacy" of the 15th Congress under the second Aquino administration.

That did not come to pass. The 15th Congress is now meandering to a close. Were those legendary well-wishers permanent? Yes, says the pooled editorial.

The Right to Know Coalition prodded Sarangani Rep. Rey Evardone to "transform rhetoric into reality." Evardone, who oversaw all the earlier incantation as a journalist, heads the House committee on public information. He failed to "harmonize 15 versions of this FOI bill" in his committee.

After the years of the Sutton lobbyist, Evardone promised that he'd put the FOI bill "on the front burner." Well, from 15 to none—and zero. Evardone's pledge hasn't been redeemed.

"Executive agencies have become more transparent, anyway," other spokespersons claim. The Department of Budget and Management, under Abad, uploads unprecedented amounts of public fund data from agencies and local units.

These welcome reforms need to be institutionalized. Benigno Aquino III will not be President forever. The 16th President (it does not have to be Aquino-Samar) can scrap those reforms with the stroke of a pen.

The FOI bill's passage is critical. Without the people's support, it can be shot off with the ease of burning a light switch," Ernesto Aquino always warned.

(E-mail: juan_mercado77@yahoo.com)

2 cases of direct assault

GET REAL

Sofia Cokar-Monsod

THE ELECTION in the Cordillera Bikos incident, captured on cam- by TV5 employee Karen Bernadette Reith who just happened to be on the scene and had the presence of mind to record the event, was instantaneous. A cameraman on location was interviewed on TV5's the following Tuesday (apparently, identification and statement getting took time), and went on the Internet immediately after. It went viral, and the public outrage was almost palpable, they say. Today marks one week after the incident, and already the following have happened:

First, Robert "Bob" Cordillera has been suspended by his employer, Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corp. (PMFTC), according to the company. (It refused to issue a statement until after the mandated week email, it "would elevate the matter to the proper authorities" by any of our employees," and "still" closely monitor" the investigation of the case.

In this regard, I frankly don't know what else there is to investigate, because the whole incident was recorded on film or tape or whatever it is one uses to capture moments. Unlike in the case of human eyewitnesses (although I am sure there will be people who will come forward), there is no chance of memory failure over time. No need to cross-examine, because the camera's testimony cannot be impeached.

Of course, there are rare cases in a story: Cordillera's father claims that his son was goaded into action because Metro Manila Development Authority traffic enforcer Genaraise Fabros "repeatedly" hit the side of his son's vehicle. The TV5 employee who recorded the incident, on the other hand, says that Fabros hit the car only once, presumably to stall Cordillera's attention. Okay, so there is a hiccup-he says-in part. But no amount of pounding can and should excuse the behavior of Cordillera that was rampant for driving.

But more to the point, if PMFTC really "can not condone inappropriate conduct," why doesn't it just part ways with Cordillera? Maybe it should borrow a page from the book of Intel's Ricky Sucaldo: Reuters immediately terminated the employment of one of his staff who was part of the traumatic account of drowning in the tunnel Alabang golf tournament (former Customs Commissioner Angelina Ricarte was in that infamous foursome).

But not-are not finished. Let us now compare and contrast the Cordillera Bikos (CB) incident with the Ateneo-Ateneo (AA) incident that occurred on July 1,2011, or over 13 months ago.

The earlier incident involved former City Mayor Jejomar Binay and Senator Alan Peter Cayetano.

The similarities are that both incidents were caught on video; both involved a law enforcement officer being directly assaulted; the victims made no effort to retaliate; both incidents went viral and were met with public outrage; and both had the fathers of the assailants defending their offspring.

What are the differences? The CB incident involved slapping, while the AA incident involved punching (five times). An latter in full view and seemingly implicit cooperation of the police; the CB incident involved a private citizen against a person in authority while the AA incident involved a person in authority against another person in (lower) authority.

The slaps differences, it would seem, are that charges of direct assault were filed in the CB case, while in the AA case, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo recommended the filing of a much lighter charge of misconduct against Duterte. This newly disappointed the Sheriffs Confederation of the Philippines, which filed a direct assault charge against Duterte at the Office of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has refused to file-for obvious reasons. Moreover, Duterte was not suspended, not even for a day.

And try though I did, I could find no subsequent news report that showed (a) whether Malacañang followed the Department of Interior and Local Government's (by then-) recommendation, or (b) how, if at all, the Ombudsman has acted on the direct assault case one year later.

Question: Both SMEAs Television and CEO's Candle emphasized that the direct assault was aggravated because of the status of both-as a person in authority. Does the DILG's subtlessness imply that a direct assault on a person in authority is mitigated if the assailant is another person in higher authority? Just asking.

Selamat hari raya Idul Fitri

"SELAMAT hari raya Idul Fitri" is how I learned to greet people "Happy Idul Fitri holiday" seems like a harsh translation; in Indonesia in 1970, long before the acronym OFW was coined.

No sooner had I returned from studies abroad than a telegram came from economist and technocrat Ortanda J. Sioson, asking me to join his study team on Indonesia's new industrialization program, called Repelita. My doctoral dissertation, "An economic analysis of the diffusion of new varieties of rice in Central Luzon," was still with an official university copy in Chicago typed "By diploma mill" (also by another Filipino student). Before I went to Jakarta, I flew back to pick up Rafaela Indonesia stamp, just to eat properly in the native hotel, only the finest dish didn't have English. My first lessons from Ortanda were to order two glasses for one bottle of beer (the smallest size was two liters, enough for both of us), and not to order rice dish anywhere. Just according to most delicious anywhere.

[From working with Ortanda in 1970-71, and then he] Cabinet as chief industrialization consultant to Indonesia 1981, I still knew enough in 1999, when with the Stanford election observers in the first post-Suharto elections, to use Indonesian to interview ordinary people in the countryside.

The subject being me, I did field trips across Java, and got on the air in both Indonesian. It was during Ramadan, in November of that year. I remember the people in quiet during daylight hours, but very noisy as soon as the sun went down, and noisy again before dawn. Today's religious fundamentalism including the late Jose D. Ocampo, who later headed the Bureau and Corp Administration, precursor of the National Food Authority) hated tea, of course, out of courtesy for the people we were meeting.

It's no problem to fast when everyone else is fasting, but it's a real challenge otherwise. Ramadan, even though travel days is a valid excuse not to. I learned that the days of missed fast should be repaid by fasting an equal number of days during non-Ramadan. Repayment of a fasting debt is done on the honor system.

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

As part of the celebration of leftovers, Indonesian employers are mandated to pay their workers a bonus, differing by region. In Jakarta, the bonus is one month's salary, making it quite special to the Christmas season in the Philippines. This is a time not only for giving gifts and viewing television, but also for spending vacations with others.

Familiarity of Filipinos with Islam. Marking the end of Ramadan is a good way to touch upon Muslim Filipinos something about Islam. In the Philippines it is officially called Hakay ng Ramadan, the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar, and the first day marking the end of the fasting period of Ramadhan (sic), according to Republic Act 9177 (11/13/02) which declares Eid'l Fitr as a national holiday. (Spelling of Eidul Fitr—apparently the official spelling, but which I like to pronounce as Idul Fitr).

Familiarity with Islam is still rather low among Filipinos. In 1987 most recent national survey on extent of knowledge about Islam, in November 2010, 7 percent replied it understood it extensively, 21 percent said understood somewhat, 31 percent said understood little (some) almost none). Let us count the first two groups, totaling 28 percent, as those "knowledgeable" on Islam.

There was no knowledge of Islam in the personal survey in October 2008, when 3 percent said extensive, 11 percent said partial but sufficient, 43 percent said a little, and 43 percent said none. Thus the knowledgeable were only 14 percent, two years earlier.

The November 2010 survey also found that 61 percent were definitely probably willing to accept a Muslim as a best friend. Those knowledgeable on Islam, however, were 72 percent willing, whereas the rest were only 58 percent willing, to have a Muslim as a best friend.

Willingness to have a Muslim as a teacher was 67 percent nationwide, but 75 percent among those knowledgeable on Islam. Having a Muslim as a neighbor was alright for 65 percent nationwide, and alright for 75 percent among the knowledgeable. Having a Muslim as the same for one's children was alright for 55 percent nationwide, and 69 percent among the knowledgeable.

The lesson here is that familiarity breeds, not contempt, but appreciation. Promoting more official familiarity is good for the Philippines.

Recent in the peace talks, Eidul Fitr comes directly after the end of the 38th formal Exploratory Talks in Kuala Lumpur between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, last Aug. 15.

The parties' very brief joint statement says that they have organized their respective technical working groups to prepare drafting and wordsmithing that these working groups "discussed and resolved comments on some issues of power sharing and revenue generation and wealth sharing arrangements," and that the parties noted the progress and agreed to meet again later this month.

Having one progress toward a peace agreement is a good gift for Eidul Fitr.

* * *

Comment: SWS' terms are org.ph or market research@sws.org.ph; or 1 Alcmeda Corporate Adjacent 20 Building, Quezon City 1104, Philippines. For survey-based analyses, see SWS Fellow Mahar Mangahas' Joseph Lizardo's thesis, "Islamophobia in the Philippines: measuring attitudes of Filipinos towards Islam and Muslims," M.A. in Islamic Studies, University of the Philippines, 2012.

For a million lifetimes

MEDICAL SCHOOL is not the place for smart people.

If I am really smart, then I'll get out of the university and start living my life. Like what most of my college friends are doing. I'll probably start making a career and providing for myself. If I am really smart, I won't spend another four years in a university, be in intimate a relationship with my books, and endure countless sleepless nights studying reports, group discussions, and case reports that should be out of my vocabulary. My definition of "fun" and "happy" should be having with my family, pampering myself, or travelling the world. NOT being in this missed from classes, acing the examinations, or completing reports with flying colors.

Young Blood

Chelsea Angeli
R. del Castillo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their concerns? Their views on current issues? Their aspirations? Contributions from the twenty-something and below—Ed.

My first weeks in medical school straightened my comfort zone into that intelligence and perseverance combined with enough fresh would be sufficient for me to realize my dream of running a white coat. I like school and I like to study. I like learning. I was never sure once what medical school is like awakened me to the sheer grueling realities that take place between substance and board examination. My determination was challenged more than ever, and my lifestyle was changed dramatically right before my eyes waking up early to beat the clock, catching a glimpse of myself in the mirror and thinking that even last made me look 10 years older, skipping meals either because I wanted to or I had to, waiting for the redemption bell, going home while thinking of the piles of things that I had to study, wishing that tomorrow would be a holiday, setting my alarm clock, dreams, dreams, dreams, being pulled awake by the much dreaded alarm, and loving it sooner until I get the courage to face reality.

Sometimes, a voice within asks if this is really the life that I wanted to live for another four years. Lots of times, thoughts of quitting have me. "My family will certainly understand if I tell my longest passion my student." I often tell myself. But subsequent ideas that come pop up in my boggled mind, which finds my desire to my hardest in the form of various options coming from within. Questions of whether I can understand and helpful myself by giving up just like that awaken my slumbering determination. The things that I have seen, the people that I have been with, and the experiences that I have lived through during my personal years as a nursing student have impressed me this whole time.

Those times, I witnessed how a patient started to the door while silently waiting for someone who'd visit him during the most painful hours of his life. How a sweet smile, how a simple act of concern, and how a genuine caring touch could lighten the load of an old woman just to [illegible] feeling a downer... and they are what make it as difficult to let go.

In this field, intelligence is only moving me forward by an inch. If there is something more important than intelligence, I believe it is that desire, that unwavering yearning and determination to keep running no matter how hard it gets. It is these attributes that I see in myself that I see in a willingness to keep polishing. It is this relentless passion to inspire and be inspired in return. It is that longing to experience the bliss of reaching one and knowing how it is to be truly alive. It is that commitment to respond to the promise of changing lives and touching souls. To treat a patient as a human being who deserves to be treated with dignity. To treat a patient as a suffering disease, a means of living, or a subject of study. To cure the cure and to care beyond the cure.

Things like these do not need the 82 of literature to be fulfilled.

My journey as a medical student is a story shared by all of us. Because it is a story of DEDICATION. Sounds old, well-all so underprivileged...whatever our circumstances are, we all have dreams. That dream may not be louder than a fear or it can whisper silently like a breeze. Regardless of how it is wrapped and no matter what form it takes, how we will make it always possible is declared by the amount of will power and willingness to sacrifice. The moment I saw as a wellspring

'RN Heals is essentially a form of exploitation'

LETTERS

THE AQUINO administration boasts that the RN Heals program is one of its achievements. But ASAP ng Bayan, a national association of community health nurses and people's health advocates, has a contrary view. In fact, ASAP sees RN Heals materially as a form of exploitation.

RN Heals hires freshly graduated nurses for one year—as "internationals." The nurses are made to perform regular nursing tasks and augment the nursing manpower in many understaffed hospitals; yet, they are considered "trainees" with an allowance of not more than P9,000 a month. Meager as it is, the release of the allowance is many times overdue delayed for 3 months, sometimes. Some nurses spend for their daily needs (meals and transportation) and other incidental expenses like scrub suits, gloves or even medicines for job-related health problems like allergy, etc.

A more serious concern: RN Heals nurses have little or no protection at all from possible work-related infections or accidents/illness that may arise from the performance of their duties.

The country has a huge pool of nurses. But severe unemployment remains the core problem in the nursing front. Ironically, nursing service is gravely needed in underserved and poor communities, and in public hospitals that are generally ill-equipped and severely understaffed. Instead, there is scarcity amidst plenty.

The government has neither observed nor implemented the standards that itself has set especially the nurse-patient ratio of 1:12 for bedside nursing care, and 1:20,000 for public health. In many government hospitals, a nurse usually handles more than 20 patients—often even more, like in the Oakhurst Mental Health Center where a ward nurse is made to take charge of an average of 40-140 psychiatric patients. Moreover, public health nurses should have been receiving a starting monthly salary of P24,057, as per the Philippine Nursing Law of 2002, but the government has not allotted any budget for the enforcement of this law.

The "dump-and-run" of P-Noy has not addressed the problem of mass unemployment. Despite the country's annual need for nurses, which is mounting because of aging and migration, the RN Heals program, to employers and unqualified.

RN Heals nurses "heals" not dignities nurses because it is a form of exploitation. The public health system can be made stronger by removing from the positions the mere nurses to meet the growing needs of the populations. Health is a major responsibility of the state, so the government should allot adequate budget for health services and human resources.

ASAP, even assuming as a service-oriented and not merely a job, it is a moral duty and commitment to care for the sick and the injured, regardless of the sick. We call upon the government to work only with the government's full support.

We agree with the "People's Mural" which was delivered outside the halls of Congress. If we are truly "the land of P-Noy, the politics and budget should be allocated with the end to serve of benefiting the people.

—MARIFELLE AMARAL, RN, MAN, president, Kapisanang Kanser, ca.AMKA.org@yahoo.com; ca.Kalusugan.ng.Sambayanan@yahoo.com; pilippinenurses@yahoo.com

What's the logic behind badly timed roadwork?

MMDA call attention to the maintenance work being undertaken on Coastal Road at this time of the year when rains are in their heydays.

I do not know what prompted the decision to go ahead with the project. I cannot fathom the logic behind it. Due to most laying asphalt on that busiest portion of Coastal Road now that monsoon rains are at their worst—that is spot silence! The work could have been done late summer, when vehicular volume was lighter, not to mention the fact that the asphalt would have dried faster.

Have the people behind this project even raised that stretch of Coastal Road since the rains started? Don't they find hilarious the sight of those outpatients laid atop the newly laid asphalt in a vain effort to protect it from the rains? Have they tried driving through Coastal Road when residents of Las Piñas and Cavite are creeping home?

What used to take us 30 minutes to an hour to traverse now takes us more than two hours. And when the bedraggle vans as in Survivor, we worry about the fate of those in the back. What made the whole aspect even more horrific was the news that our arteries have been severed by flood. And are could not do anything but pray that our family members would be safe. The following nights was even more terrible. It took us four hours to negotiate the length of Coastal Road. From its Manila end to the Bacoor exit. As I write, I am wondering if that record will be broken tonight.

The way I and the other affected people see it, this man-made problem has no excuse to exist. The roadwork cannot proceed for so long as the rains keep pouring. And based on the weather bureau's estimates, we can expect 2-3 more months before the drizzle ends. So unless some suddenly decides to construct the dikes (sweets Dr Sanchez talking to minister), the half-completed layer of asphalt that cover 60 percent of the Coastal will remain unless they are. And we, the hapless victims whose only business is to earn our daily bread to provide for them, are left with no option but to subject ourselves to the nightly agony of the traffic jam they have created. For that, I express my sincere "thanks."

—GLENN D. MALAIG, aldrin.malaig@gmail.com

How to cushion K to 12 transition's impact on economy

WE FULLY support the noble objectives of the K to 12 program. It is important for our graduates to be able to meet the requirements of the European Qualifications Framework (Sydney Accord) and other forthcoming accords so that as professionals they will be accepted as equals of other professionals in the world. However, it is at least ironic at this time that we examine critically problems attendant to the implementation of Grades 11 and 12 in school years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 and that we find the most economical solutions to these problems.

The basic problems pinpointed in various conferences are:

1. Billions of pesos will be needed for new buildings, expansion and supplies, as well as for the hiring and training of additional teachers and staff for Grades 11 and 12. Can we afford these?

2. Colleges and universities will have virtually no first-year students for both school years 2016-2018. These will bring tremendous financial problems not only to public and private higher education institutions (HEIs).

3. There will be no college graduates for two school years (2000-2002) and no Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) graduates (at least at the NC 2 level) for two school years (2018-2020). This will mean a substantial decrease in Tesda and college graduates going overseas in those years and, therefore, lesser OFW remittances for those years. Mindful of the two facts, GNP growth rates may perish raising would go down. Can we afford this?

4. Our absence for two years will leave foreign employers to get their requirements from China, India, Vietnam, Thailand and others, which are all wasting to put to their own skilled workers. Again, this will be disastrous.

Recommendations regarding these problems from various conferences have been sent to the Office of the President, the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and Tesda, as follows:

To minimize the expenditures in Problem 1, it is recommended that SUCs, public and private, be commissioned to handle the 11th and 12th years if accepted, the recommendation will give us three years to develop the details of the program.

To minimize the impact of having no first-year students (Problem 2) during the two transition school years (2016-2018), we give Grade 10 graduates the option to take up CHED and/or Tesda courses. This will solve Problems 3 and 4 as we will have graduates going abroad during the transition years. We will have to explain to the US and European Canada that this will only be during the transition years.

There are other problems related to the above problems and resolutions, but we are hopeful these could be resolved one minute much difficulty.

We hope the policies of the DepEd and the Steering Committee will be finalized soon to enable all those concerned to prepare for SY 2016-2018.

—MARCELO FERNANDEZ, president, General Luna Association of Higher Education Institutions Inc.; REYNALDO C. MERCADO SJ, president, Philippine Association of Higher Education and Technical Institutions

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need a job?

40% of men in poor countries still smoking away

AN ILLUSTRATION obtained by Reuters shows a proposed model of a cigarette pack in this April 7, 2011, file photo. The world's leading tobacco firms, British American Tobacco, Britain's Imperial Tobacco, Philip Morris and Japan Tobacco lost a crucial legal appeal in Australia this week against the introduction of plain tobacco packaging. REUTERS

LONDON – Two-fifths of men in developing countries still smoke or use tobacco, and women are increasingly starting to smoke at younger ages, according to new international study which found "alarming patterns" of tobacco use.

Despite years of astounding warnings being encouraged across the world, most developing countries have low quit rates, according to a study in The Lancet medical journal published yesterday.

There are wide differences in the rates of smoking between genders and nations, as well as major disparities in access to effective antismoking policies and treatments.

Only about 5.1 billion people have been covered by the adoption of the most effective tobacco control policies since 2008, 82 percent of the world's population are not covered by two or more of these policies," said Gary Giovino of the University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions in New York, who led the research.

Plain tobacco packaging

Such measures include legislation to ensure developed nations ban smoking-cessation in public places, imposing advertising bans and requiring more graphic health warnings on cigarette packets.

The findings come as the world's leading tobacco firms, British American Tobacco, Britain's Imperial Tobacco, Philip Morris and Japan Tobacco, lost a crucial legal appeal in Australia this week against the introduction of plain tobacco packaging.

Australia's planned "no logo" laws are in line with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations and are being watched closely by Britain, Norway, New Zealand, Canada and India, which are considering similar measures to help fight smoking.

Tobacco kills up to half of its users, according to the WHO.

Smoking causes lung cancer, which is often fatal, and other chronic respiratory diseases. It is also a major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, the world's number one killer. Other forms of tobacco use include snuff or chewing tobacco.

Giovino said his findings "reinforce the need for effective tobacco control."

Using data from Global Adult Tobacco Surveys (GATS) carried out between 2008 and 2010, Giovino's team examined patterns of tobacco use and -nations in people aged 15 or older from 14 low- and middle-income countries. They included data from Britain and the United States for comparison.

They found disproportionately high rates of smoking among men – at an average 41 percent versus 7 percent in women – and wide variation in smoking prevalence between GATS countries, ranging from about 22 percent of men in Brazil to more than 60 percent in Russia.

Rates of female smoking ranged from 0.5 percent in Egypt to almost 25 percent in Poland. Women in Britain and the United States also had high smoking rates, at 21 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

The study found that around six percent of tobacco users smoke manufactured cigarettes, although homeleaf chewing tobacco and snuff were particularly common in India and Bangladesh.

With an estimated 304 million tobacco users, China has topped all other countries, closely followed by India with almost 275 million. Other countries included in the study were Bangladesh, Ukraine, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Uruguay and Poland.

The researchers said the rise in tobacco use among young women was of particular concern.

In a commentary about the study also published in The Lancet, Jeffery Koplan from Emory University in the United States and Judith Mackay from the World Lung Foundation in Hong Kong called for more investment in tobacco control measures, saying current underfunding was "extraordinary".

In low-income countries, they said, for every $9,000 recovered in tobacco taxes, only $1 was spent on tobacco control.

Death by smoking

The WHO says tobacco already kills around 5 million people a year worldwide, including more than 600,000 nonsmokers who die from exposure to secondhand smoke.

At present, the proportion of deaths from tobacco is greatest in rich countries, where 19 percent of deaths are attributable to tobacco use, compared to 13 percent in middle-income countries and 4 percent in low-income countries.

But smoking rates have been rising steadily in poorer countries and falling in rich ones, so these positions are likely to change, the study said.

On current trends, as many as a billion people could die prematurely from tobacco use during this century, the study said, citing estimates by WHO experts. *Report by Reuters and AFP*

P-Noy says JBC 'unfair' but will still pick CJ from its list

From page A1

ing the Commission, and first by the Senate on May 29 after a key-month trial.

The JBC disqualified De Lima from the selection because she had a pending disbarment case. The council's rules disallow consideration of nominees with pending disbarment or administrative cases.

"In my view, what happened was not fair," Mr. Aquino said. "Their rules say that those with disbarment cases will not be considered. There are those facing cases, but were suddenly cleared. There are others who don't have any cases, but were suddenly disqualified. How can that be fair?"

Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza and Investities and Exchange Commission Chair Teresita Herbosa had pending administrative cases when they were nominated by Chief Justice.

No case yet

Explaining the process of the JBC cases on Monday, Emilio Reg. Mathaniel Tupaz, the Senate representative to the council, said the panel proceeded to consider Jardeleza's nomination because the Supreme Court had not yet acted upon the complaint against the solicitor general as it could not yet be considered a pending administrative case.

Tupaz said the case against Herbosa was dismissed on Aug. 3, qualifying her for consideration. But as she got only four votes, Tupaz said, she had a short of the final list of nominees.

A case for the disbarment of acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio, also a nominee, was filed just days before the JBC's final deliberation, but the Supreme Court dismissed the complaint because Carpio cannot be removed only through impeachment.

Eight nominees

The JBC selected nominees who got five or more votes during its final deliberations on Monday. Eight of 20 nominees handled the vote requirement.

Carpio topped the list with seven votes. Supreme Court Associates Justices Lourdes Sereno, Roberto Abad and Jose Mendoza also got six votes. Supreme Court Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro and then Court Administrator of Atomic Law School pulled five votes each.

No choice

In spite of his dissatisfaction with the JBC list, Mr. Aquino said he would choose the next Chief Justice from the nominees recommended by the council.

"We will pick from the list before the deadline comes," Mr. Aquino said.

But President ruled out the idea of sending back the list to the JBC.

"What choice do I have? The Constitution doesn't give me that prerogative," he said. "The Constitution tells me that I have no choice from the list that they submitted."

It was the first time Mr. Aquino spoke about the JBC choice since the council sent the list of nominees to him on Monday afternoon. His press officers had also defused controversy, saying they had yet to speak with the President.

De Lima, who is facing disbarment cases for badmouthing Corona and ignoring a Supreme Court order, complained that she was excluded on the shortlist. Ilocos said the cases against her were politically motivated.

Not again

Appearing at a press briefing in Malacañang on the repeated escape of murder convict Rolito Go from the New Bilibid Prison on Thursday, De Lima said she would not seek a seat on the Supreme Court again.

"I don't know. Probably not anymore," she said, responding to questions about another crack at a seat in the highest court.

But she said she would stay in the JBC, as her membership in the council is required by the Constitution.

"It's a problem with me, I can still work with all of them there," De Lima said, referring to the other members of the council who opposed her nomination.

P-Noy: How can you be kidnapped in jail?

From page A1

to hinder a conclusion right away while the evidence is not yet complete."

Go claimed on Thursday that the four men ascended him suicide but Ng Aaru parish church at the maximum security compound, identified themselves as NBI agents and then bound him and his nurse nephew or greenpoint into a car that took them to Batangas province.

According to Go, he and his nephew were freed on Wednesday after he was made to believe a ransom had been paid by his wife for their release.

Crackdown on syndicates

De Lima said it was also "unavoidable" that the investigation would be expanded following reports that there had been at least three abductions of rich inmates inside the NBI. He asked the Bureau of Corrections to give him a report on the three incidents.

The President sought a fresh crackdown on syndicates in the NBI set to sabotage the reforms initiated by prison officials.

"There are many syndicates there and that's what we want to dismantle," Mr. Aquino told reporters. "The issue of overcrowding should also be addressed. There are a lot of things that need to be done. We're looking at that decision. Reforms are being undertaken."

The President wondered why Go's caper still happened despite the reforms instituted by Bureau of Corrections Director General Franklin Bucayu. "It's gone on as bribeable here while Go's case is being investigated.

"The question I want answered is: Did somebody find again some money underneath the mattress of Mamang Pinpin?" he said. "Has he set up? Now deep are the roots of these syndicates now operating in Bilibid?" Mr. Aquino said.

Minimum expectation

"And once and for all, how do we make sure that the prisoners there are reformed, instead of getting better in their criminal activities?"

Police said their investigation showed Go and his nephew were "forcibly taken" from the prison.

Mr. Aquino, still in disbelief at how Go could have been abducted by armed men, said: "How could somebody have escaped in the face of the reformed?" He reiterated that inmates who failed to do their job "would be held accountable."

"The minimum expectation was that what happened should not have happened. There is an investigation to find out why this happened. Whoever has shortcomings should be held accountable," he said.

Mr. Aquino also questioned the presence of "toked" transparency shelters in the penitentiary.

"The locked should not be there. It is right for him to be kept a house behind the fin ng Aaru church?" he said. He also said prison guards needed to undergo training.

Mr. Aquino also questioned the presence of unarming an inmate's prison term for good conduct allowance.

He said: "When you put in, there is what they call good conduct allowance. This is not the fault of Director Pangilinan. If you believe, you'll get some sort of a discount to your sentence. But I've always questioned: How can you not be here when you're thrown in the company of the toughest? In effect, you're being rewarded for trying to survive."

De Lima, who has spoken with the prison system convict, said the NBI would intervene to aid ask him to put down in writing his version of what happened.

The NBI will also talk with Go's nephew, Go's sister Evelyn who negotiated the release with the abductors, people at the minimum security compound who could attest to Go's presence there and Nova Gilded chaplain Msgr. Roberto Obgaro.

Laughable claim

"He (Go) said last night that there were people who could confirm that he was really at the compound. He is pursuing, for example, to Monsignor Obgaro," De Lima said, referring to Go's duties as the parish church that the chaplain administers.

"We will check his presence in the church right before or the day that he was supposed to have been abducted," she added.

De Lima said talk made on mobile phones used by Go's observers would also be checked to see if these would back up the kidnap story.

She said NBI officials found "ridiculous" the claims of the alleged abduction that they were Kill agents.

"We just laughed at these claims," she said. "Given the dot me believe it because it was so ridiculous."

Go, formerly a construction magnate, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the killing of assistant Eldon Magnate in 1991 during a traffic altercation. He has been in jail for 20 years and is due to be released next year.

VIP PRISONER. Rolito Go is photographed walking along the road at New Bilibid Prison compound in Muntinlupa in this photo taken on May 24, 2011. REUTERS/CJ YU

US blogger accuses Sotto: 'Lying thief'

From page A1

without any attribution.

The senator continued to deny the plagiarism allegation, saying that both he and Pope had cited the same source, Russian-born physician Dr. Natasha Campbell-McBride who claims that contraceptives cause an imbalance between good and bad bacteria in the intestines that breaks down the defense against infection.

He also took exception to the blogger's charge that he is "lying dead."

'Umbrella attribution'

"They must be mistaken. When I delivered in the plenary is different from the one that was written," Sotto said in a telephone interview.

"I have my umbrella attribution in my speech," he added, referring to his disclaimer that what he said on the floor was based on research and not his own.

Sotto also referred to Article II Section 11 of the Philippine Constitution which says in part: "No member [of Congress] shall be questioned nor be held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Congress or in any committee thereof."

"Why would I quote from a blogger? She is just a 'blogger,' Sotto said.

Milmoria said he saw nothing wrong with using Pope's blog entries as they are "public domain" and "blogs are not covered by copyright." He added, "It is a new media and there is no jurisprudence yet."

'Dilatory filibustering'

In the House of Representatives, supporters of the RH bill are blaming themselves for the measure's fate after it became apparent that the measure would not survive what the RH bill's principal author, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, has described as "the malevolent and dilatory filibustering" of lawmakers opposed to House Bill No. 4244.

Iloilo Rep. Jerry Treñas Gatchalian, a coauthor of the bill, said there was an "understanding" among proponents that the measure would no longer be filed in the next Congress should it fail in the current one.

"If it fails, the bill will not be tackled in the next Congress, it appears," Gatchalian said in a phone interview, recalling discussions among her colleagues prior to the Aug. 6 vote that terminated plenary debate on HB 4244. "If [the bill] is tackled at all, perhaps it would only come after a few years, perhaps after 10 years," she said, adding that she and other proponents remained "committed" to passing the RH bill into law.

Not yet mature

Garin said that if the RH bill were delivered to the 15th Congress, it would be "a proof that our country is not yet mature for that law."

But whatever the House vote is on HB 4244, the Iloilo representative said legislative work on the measure should be completed.

"The point is, if you don't want to pass it, then vote against it," Garin said. "To be fair to everybody, including the real Filipino people who really want this bill, let's decide on this. If we have the numbers, then okay. To be honest, we're also not sure [if we have the numbers]," she said.

"If we don't have the numbers, at least, the people would know that [the bill can't be passed] so we can probably proceed with existing programs, depending on the political will of local chief executives," Garin said.

In June this year, Health Secretary Enrique Ona announced that his department would distribute around P800 million in condoms and other contraceptives to help address the problem of rising unwanted morality in the country.

In Davao province, the Tagum city government has been implementing its own reproductive health program, spending at least P15 million annually, according to a previous Inquirer report. Since 2006, at least 4,200 women have reportedly availed themselves of the city's free tubal ligation program.

Stalemate

House members are in a stalemate on HB 4244 after their an adjournment the plenary session on Wednesday without settling Rep. Emilio Ramiro Jr.'s motion to suspend further deliberations on the measure.

Solon warned the chamber to focus on the devastation caused by the heavy monsoon rains in Mindoro Islands and neighboring provinces last week, a move dismissed as a dilatory tactic by proponents of the bill/bill.

"The scheme of the opposition to take undue advantage of House Rules on questions of personal or collective privilege to delay and derail the start of the period of amendments, violates the mandate of the plenary to move forward the RH bill," Lagman said in a statement.

"Why terminate the long-winding and repetitive interpellations only to interpolate and belabor through the legislation?" he added.

No middle ground

But Golez accused the RH bill proponents of delaying the bill themselves when they moved for adjournment on the two-session days when the House opened the period of amendments on HB 4244. The decision, according to Golez's camp, means that the other side did not have enough numbers on the floor.

Rep. Florencio Noel, who is openly against the bill, said he was not optimistic that both sides could reach a "middle ground" on the measure.

"While there are concessions that can be made, I see that there are many disagreements," he told the Inquirer on the sidelines of the plenary deliberations. With a report from Norman Bordadora

SOTTO: They must be mistaken

POPE: We are on the same side

Poll chief: Luxurious, yes, but not overpriced; it's moral issue

From page A1

round for the election body's resident colleagues.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, Brillantes said he was reviewing voluminous documents pertaining to the refurbishing of the Comelec complex to be able to answer criticisms that the agency had overspent for the renovations.

"I'm just gathering all the documents under 2009 up to this year," Brillantes said. "I want to see the details and what happened, and then I'll be meeting with our people involved in the purchases," he added.

The senator said he assured the Comelec chief to explain the "extravagant" purchases when the election body makes a second presentation of its budget on Aug. 30.

Moral issue, not legal

Asked if someone would be held liable for the procurements, Brillantes said: "If some someone has to be held liable, but I don't know if there is an anomaly because it's not overpriced; it's just that it's luxurious."

BRILLANTES

"The issue here is moral rather than [legal]," he added.

Brillantes said that an initial review of the documents showed that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had originally allowed P8 million for the furnishings, but that the Comelec en banc had asked the department to reduce the amount to P7.9 million instead.

"The DPWH proposed P8 million but for me that was too high so we asked them to cut it," he said. "So when it was lowered to P7.9 million, we ordered new bids and awards committee to proceed with the acquisition."

THE RENOVATED summer cottages for Comelec commissioners in Baguio City

The poll chief said that while he would examine the bids and other items provided in the acquisition, he would also look into the Comelec's procurement process.

Brillantes has called the members of the Comelec's bids and awards committee to a meeting today in preparation for his "confrontation" with Commons on Aug. 30.

Dutch treat: One-way ticket to Mars offered by reality game show

From page A1

land that launched reality TV? The start-up, called "Mars One," says it has found common ground between four astronauts on Mars by 2023, seven years ahead of the US space agency's target, and plans to start the search for volunteers next year.

Experts are skeptical, but "Mars One" has been looking from more other than Dutch tested business. Around 1 touch, who more than 1,000 price for organizers.

"My first reaction was: 'You will never work.' But a closer look at the project convinced me. I really think this is possible," Yohsh told Agence France-Presse.

No return trip

No one has ever tried to put men on Mars, and scientists question whether radiation exposure would even allow humans to survive the trip.

As for the space agencies' attempts since 1969 to land unmanned craft, only about half have succeeded, with the US by far the clear leader.

And though six missions did make it to Mars—including Nasa's Curiosity rover that set down on Aug. 5 to hunt for signs of past life and prepare for a possible human mission—scientists have no way yet to get astronauts back.

Sound discouraging?

Not to the man behind "Mars One," mechanical engineer Bas Lansdorp, 35.

Price tag: $6 billion

Lansdorp estimated the price tag at a hefty $6 million, more than twice the $2.3 billion for Curiosity. Nasa's biggest mission cost, and said the idea for financing came after talks with Paul Romer, one of the Dutch creators of "Big Brother." The first reality show in 1999 that sees a smash hit and spawned versions

A REALITY SHOW: Handout picture from "Mars One" shows an artist's rendition of a settlement on Mars. As the world marvels at the latest US Mars landing, a Dutch start-up is aiming to beat Nasa at its own game by sending the first humans to the red planet and film all as a reality show. The start-up team called "Mars One" says it is serious about landing four astronauts on Mars by 2023, seven years ahead of the US space agency's target, and plans to start the search for volunteers next year. —AFP

and big profits, we decide.

"Funding will be made possible through the media spectacle built around the adventure," he told AFP.

For Lansdorp, "the conquest of the red planet is the most important step in the history of mankind," even if he concedes that many aspects of "Mars One" are still uncertain.

Among these are the ethics and legality of asking people to finish their lives in outer space, under 24 months.

Colony of 20 people

Other critics say "Mars One" seems more focused on the promotion—rather than the feasibility—of the project.

Under Lansdorp's plan, choosing and training the astronauts, then months-long space journey and their lives on Mars would all be televised—along the lines of "Big Brother" where a certain group was isolated in a house and constantly filmed by TV cameras.

The Dutch engineer has teamed up with a physicist, an industrial designer and a communications specialist. They would run the operation, he said, and technical experts in the building a spaceship and living quarters on Mars would be enlisted to companies that were "most qualified."

He has even drawn up a schedule. Selection and training of astronauts is set to start next year, then contracts for the space station, food and robotic vehicles would be sent between 2016 and 2022.

A first group of four men and women would set foot on Mars in April 2023, Lansdorp told AFP, with others to follow until there was a colony of 20 people a decade later. They would mainly conduct scientific experiments, notably looking for signs of life, like Curiosity.

Possible in theory

On a planet with an average temperature of minus 55 degrees Celsius and an atmosphere mainly of carbon dioxide, Lansdorp said oxygen would be produced from water found below Mars' surface.

For Chris Welch, an engineering professor at Dundee's Abertay University, getting oxygen this way was "possible in theory" but highly uncertain.

And "sending a person on Mars—why not?" he said, "But landing four people and keeping them alive on one spot—that's much harder."

From a technical standpoint, it may sh fifty-fifty—but it's still a conceptual fr said Welch, who also questioned whether Mankind could be raised "via television."

At the European Space Agency, Jorge Vago, an expert on its Mars exploration project "ExoMars," said technological on the planet made it virtually impossible to send man craft of the same plane, as now seen by "Mars One."

Caroline rendis, aerospace

"If the robot selects which has to build the living module needs 100 kilometers—or even 20 km away, it will be very difficult." he also said exploring from the sun that release ionized isolated into space could "burn" astronauts and damage their ship.

Despite the doubts, a firm side of engineering consultants in the Netherlands and Space Society, the umbrella group for Dutch companies working in the space industry.

Its chair, Gerard Blaauw, called Lansdorp's plan a "visionary idea to combine media and aerospace," in comments on the "Mars One" website, saying "the energy ... alone inspires Mars One is worth watching."

AFP

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SPORTS

Eagles, Tams dispute solo top spot today

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO coach Norman Black expects to see a hard-fighting Far Eastern University squad even if the Tamaraws claim they've been struggling in their recent UAAP games.

The Blue Eagles and the Tamaraws—locked in a three-way tie with fellow University of Santo Tomas at 5-1—fight for the solo lead on the penultimate day of men's basketball's first round today.

The expected blockbuster rematch between the finalists of the last two seasons is set at 4:00 p.m. at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

National University seeks its fourth against La Salle when they clash at 12 noon.

Tickets for today's matches will be sold separately.

FEU coach Bert Flores said he hopes that his Tamaraws, who are coming off a 71-51 decision over University of the Philippines, pick up their game even with hardest guard Ola Garcia playing through an ankle injury.

"Our games have been dipping," said Flores. "I told Terrence (Romeo) to keep on working hard and involve his teammates more because 80% has been struggling."

Garcia, a former MVP, averaged only five points in his last two outings.

But Black thinks Garcia will be back in top shape to their showdown as both squads had a two-week layoff following the game cancellations last week due to inclement weather.

"We will be taking by the more we play them," said Black.

The two-time champion Eagles, who have been banking on the trio of Mac Salva, Greg Slaughter and Kiefer Ravena, aim to keep the FEU guards in check.

"The number one thing for us is to find a way to slow down their wingmen," said Black, referring to Garcia, Romeo and Jens Tolentino. "At the same time, there's (Anthony) Hargrove in the middle. We have to control him also."

[JUSTIN] Blue eagles pair up a shot off Mark Lopez of UP in a recent game. The Blue Eagles prevailed, 74-53.

Energen PH U-18 clobbers Saudi five

THE PHILIPPINES Energen under-18 team used a strong first half to coast to a 99-53 romp over Saudi Arabia at the start of the 22nd Abu Asia Under-18 Championship tourney night in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Mario Bankoff set the tone by unloading all but two of his 13 points in the first two quarters of the Philippines' opening campaign in Group B of the cardinal-and-gold squad's first game in the 12-team tournament.

Bankoff, a standout forward from La Salle Green Hills, also had nine rebounds to help the Nationals pull away by 20 points, 49-29, at the half.

Jerie Pingos—the reigning UAAP Juniors MVP from the host University of Perpetual Help—also helped pioneer the Philippines' double-digit cushion along with Kyle Soares, Jay Alejandro, Jiro Nambatac and Kent Lao.

Soares contributed 10 points and had three steals, while Alejandro and Pingos contributed 10 points.

Mentored by Chino Recidoro, the Philippines rolls on Kazakhstan at 12 noon Saturday.

PHILIPPINES: Soares 2, Alejandro 14, Bankoff 13, Pingos 11, Nambatac 10, Lao 5, Gan 6, Ogbuji 8, Sandoval 5, Pangan 2, Mendoza 2, Ramos 2, Ramirez 2, Lopez

Lascuña sizzles with 67, wrests 1-shot lead

LASCUÑA (Photo a four-under card will aim it.

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—Tony Lascuña blazed the Orchard's Palmera course with an eagle-spiked 5-under-par 67 that lifted him to the lead over Australian Scott Rees in the third round of the ICTSI Orchard championship here yesterday.

Lascuña, runner-up in last week's double bogey-ridden Philippine Open in Cebu, caught the par-5 No. 6 on top of three birdies in a 12-hole stretch to finish with a 32-35 card and an 11-1 another 2012 trophy to go to the final 10 holes of the $600,000-purse closing out the two-week swing of the Asian Development Tour in the country.

"My putting finally clicked although I missed a couple more birdie chances in the closing holes," said Lascuña, who struggled on the greens of Cebu Country Club in the final round and lost the Absolute crown by six to Oliver Salvador.

"I'll just play my game but I think a four-under card will win it," added Lascuña, who had earlier rounds of 67-71.

Rees, who opened up with a 66 in the rain-delayed first round before grabbing the solo lead with a 68, raised the tee box on that much par 72 this time and dropped to second at 206.

Playing in a flight behind Lascuña with fellow Aussie Ryan Bullock and Englishman George Thanker, Rees kept the lead on the front nine with a 35 then lost it with bogeys on back-to-back No. 13 first gave him a 37 on the back.

Rodino Reyners, five down at the start of the round, closed with a 34 for a 69 and moved to solo third at 208 in his best finish at the season since bumbling the par-5 rule On ICTSI Valley Open as an amateur in late 2008.

The ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour Order of Merit leader underscored his sharp form by garnering down a pin-high par for a 3 on his 4-after reaching the green with a 4-iron second shot from 200 yards.

Peter Richardson, also of England, matched Lascuña's 67 and bettered back at 209 while Thailer limped home with a 73 and stumbled to joint 40th at 210 with Singapore's Lam Zhi Qun.

Reigning Asian Tour OOM champion Jorge Fagoaga, who skipped the event this time, set the record 63 last year.

Other backers of the event are Eagles Golf, Titleist, Footjoy Callaway, Taylor Made, Mizuna, Srixon, Nike Golf, Cutless Clubmakers and Sharp with Balls, Srixon Z3, Pinoygolfer.com and Inquirer.net.

Late surge gave US narrow win over China

CLEAN LIVING

Marnelo R. Artigo

THE SERVICE battle between the United States and China in the just-ended 2012 London Olympics saw the American athletes eventually outranking the Chinese by six gold medals in the overall tally, 46-36.

All told, the US contingent bagged 104 gold, 20 silver, and 28 bronze medals for a total of 136 as against China's 38-27-23 tally and 88 overall. Host country Great Britain finished the biggest leap ranks a 20-17-19 gold-silver-bronze haul and 65 overall.

The US contingent went each through its assistance, led by Michael Phelps, who won four golds. With a total of 22 medals in the Olympics, 18 of them golds, Phelps considered himself as the most-pressured Olympian of all times, surpassing past Olympic greats as fellow American Carl Lewis, and Finland's Paavo Nurmi, also known as he "Flying Finn."

Lewis won nine golds in the 100-meters, one gold, two silvers in the 200m, three golds in the long jump, and one gold in the 4 x 100m relay in the 1984 Los Angeles, 1988 (Seoul) and 1996 (Atlanta) Olympics.

Nurmi won nine golds in the 1920 Antwerp Olympics, setting multiple world records in his final 90 minutes in the 5,000 meter run in 3:53.6 and the 5,000m in 14:35.0, finding a race, the "Flying Finn" earned a stopwatch. He was considered as the best runner in his time, and his unusual racial approach to the long distance races.

As a young man he finished out of last and drained neither race in the 10- and 5-mile the final notes through the place frames. He spent his career as an amateur, competing in events in his native. According to the records, he would leave camp long before the race came up, resuming in time for events. He grew into a sanitizer, model, huge chested man with an enlarging build spot and once described by well-known sports columnist Jim Murray him as "now as the Finnish system, as 'think as an inches, as gloomy as the secondary of an three plus."

He was looking forward to the Los Angeles marathon in 1932, but failed to make it as the last moment when charges were brought against him by the International Olympic Committee that he had accepted monetary compensation along the way. As a consequence he was also forced to run as an amateur in the words of one race official the finishing only proved that Nurmi had "the lowest lower case and the highest asking price of any athlete in the world."

In London 2012, the US crowned China with four victories in the breakfast and women's football—averaging a loss in the 2011 World Cup. It was also the third successive Olympic crown.

By the way, American women athletes outnumbered the men in this year's US Olympic delegation.

China, relying on its signature spot table tennis, badminton and diving, had taken the early lead, but lost it to the US when the track and field events moved their time, directed by the great Michael Phelps.

The Americans credited popular hometown support, keen determination to win and vigorous training under competent coaches for their victory in London. It was the third time in the history of the modern Olympics, beating beyond the quadrennial status in 1900 and 1904.

Other heroes in London 2012 were Jamaica's Usain Bolt, who became the first Olympian to successfully do the 100-meter and 200-meter titles besides being a member of the shoulder 4 x 100m relay team, and double amputee Oscar Pistorius of South Africa, the first will be his another column.

Jones Cup 5 debuts versus Jordan today

COACHES Chot Reyes and Jong Uichico (third and fourth from left) and the rest of the Philippine team before their departure yesterday.

By Manny R. Castillo

TAIPEI—The Philippine Tire upstart in Jones Cup bid against Jordan on Saturday afternoon and coach Chot Reyes was candid enough to admit that they never did any scouting on the Jordanians or their other foes in the tournament for that matter.

"If they have the same coach and the same players, that we pretty much have an idea on how they play," Reyes said after arriving in this bustling city, stressing that this would just be a learning experience for the team that he assembled last April.

Game time is 5 p.m. at the Taipei Physical Education College gym where three games will be played before the formal opening ceremonies at 7 p.m.

The Philippines has not won this tournament since 1998 with the Centennial Team handled by Tim Cone. The Filipinos, represented last year by the original Asian Games players, will seek to improve on last year's third place finish.

Nine teams from eight countries are entered, including one from the United States and Asian powers Iran and Lebanon. The host country will be fielding two squads.

Meanwhile, Reyes, who is on reduced, 4-foot-3 point guard, will be leading the Jordanians against the Filipinos, who suffered a heart-rending defeat to Jordan in the Fiba-Asia Olympic qualifying in Wuhan.

That loss in the semifinals came after the Filipinos had beaten Jordan handily in the elimination round.

Needing badly to win that game, Chris Ibe, Marcio Lassiter and Jimmy Alapag proved big disappointments with a combined 0-of-21 performances from the perimeter.

This bunch of Gilas rookie has one of the strongest the Philippines has sent to an international meet in years mainly because they are backed by some PBA stars and reinforced by 6-foot-10 Marcus Douthit.

Douthit was enlisted by the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas as a naturalized citizen and has been with the PBA for more than two years.

Gabriel Norwood, Gary David, Sonny Thoss and LA Tenorio are among the veterans in the lineup, which has an interior bolstered by Loren Lanete.

2nd Jun Ebdane 4x4 Challenge on this weekend

KIDAPAWAN "Sun Jun" Dumpit will be back to defend his crown as more than 50 participants face off in the 2nd Gov. Jun Ebdane 4x4 Offroad Challenge this weekend in San Mariano, Zamboanga.

Dumpit, who hails from Angeles City will tackle the demanding track in Barangay Casisi, Bonchan and offroad regulars from Dumpanga Off-Roaders Club, San Jose Del Monte 4-Wheelers, Bicol Off-Roaders Club, Land Cruiser Club of the Philippines, Sandugo (Isabela) Kawayan, Gonzaga (Bulacan) Off-Road Club, Bicolnapoan Road Off-Roaders, Ronald Club, Bonoa San 4x4 Offroaders and Sierra Eclja Offroaders, among others.

The all-weather steel-and-coal tracks in Barangay Casisi proved worthy of their billing after weatherbeing the torrential rains that wrought havoc in Luzon's western seaboard last week.

As a result, the event will also be highlighted by a first-of-a-kind demonstration on the use of 4x4 offroad vehicles for rescue and relief operations in times of disasters.

Zamboales Gov Hermogenes Ebdane and son, Rep. Cesar Ebdane, will flag off the event at 8 a.m. today. Competitions are expected to wrap up just before sundown, with the Road score slated sometime.

Late registrations are accepted before flag off, according to Eric Manhug, head of the organizing Zamboales Sports and Youth Development Office.

There will also be a separate category for Zamboales drivers, who will take on the challenge of the tracks designed by members of the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders.

Some P500,000 in cash prizes await the winners. Ebdane said the 4x4 Offroad Challenge could become an annual event and a single session for Zamboales's rainy days sports tourism campaign.

LPC stagfest under way Tuesday

THREE days before the big showdown, a long list of talented participants have signed up for the "LPC Anniversary 6-ing Derby" which starts Tuesday at Las Piñas Coliseum.

The LPC management extended the event to a three-day affair (Aug. 21, 23 and 25) in anticipation of more than 100 participants, including Greg Tomico, Manny Nepomuceno, Alvin Theresh Antonino, Gregorio Aragon, Benjie Lim, Arman Ibarra, Charlie "Suong" Ang, Boy de Boco, Butchoy Ghanz and Edu dela Rosa.

Also seeing action are Benny Medina, Edward Webber, Peng Mandoque, Rico Dubereso, Raul Sella, Jing Medina, Noel Dizon, Jojo Bellezza, Danny Mendoza, Mel Reyna, Dr. Rubio, Hanz Gonzales, Nato Angat, Bambi Buenaobra, Jimmy Yuyu and Gaines Montoy of Hawaii.

The champion will receive a trophy and hand P1 million. Breeders may bring their non-hundred fighters in the LPC office until Monday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. only. For inquiries, call 0921-2123644 or 0908-3364053.

SPEEDO Philippines' Evelyn Pardo and coach Archie Liu (front row) pose with members of the victorious Ayala Harpoons.

Harpoons repeat as Speedo long course swim champs

AYALA Harpoons ran away with the overall championship for the second straight time, beating 10 other clubs in the Speedo National Long Course Swimming Championships at the Rizal Memorial Complex pool recently.

The Harpoons amassed 1,104 points, more than half of the 606 tallied by runner-up Makati Shipjacks. The Quezon City Buccaneers Swim Club rounded out the podium finishers with 569 58 points.

Mentored by Archie Liu, the Harpoons also bagged the last Speedo Long Course Nationals overall crown.

The Makati flippers' milestone paved the individual open category with Ishmaree Apolisa and Yuhad Alkhaldi picking up three gold medals each.

Apolisa, the reigning PSAP Athlete of the Year, dominated the 200m fly and both the 100m and 400m free.

Arianna Herrera emerged as the top performer in the women's division with gold-winning performances in the 400 IM and the 100m and 200m fresh. Herrera also raked in the 100m fly and 200m IM.

Jeannine M. Pepe

PMMS, Feati prevail in ISAA opener

NEWCOMER Philippine Merchant Marine School, Feati and St. Dominic College each scored a victory in matches on Wednesday to open the 4th Interscholastic Athletic Association (ISAA) at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

PMMS drew 25 points from Sany Tibaldo to defeat defending champion Technological Institute of the Philippines, 69-62, while Feati opened its campaign with a 70-60 win over University, 65-61, after a 15-point performance by Kenneth Medina.

In the opening match, Chevasis Elvin Laco dazzled in the third quarter as St. Dominic downed Manila Tytana Colleges, 80-75.

Earlier, PMMS coach Rey Sinamtcondo made the announced rest after the opening wins that ushered in the new season of the collegiate league backed by Mulpen, Milkasa, Globe and Abet Knyx Corporation.

In Consolacion, College-Manila took a bye but still keep in the fore for the first time next week when the league begins its regular season a-week playdates.

La Salle Zobel, Ateneo pace Inter-Schools golf

MOREY crowned Junior World champion Steven Oliveros-Ilao steered De La Salle Zobel to an early eight-point lead in Girls 2 while Ateneo behind Biggs Ilarena, secured ahead in Midgets 2 at the start of the ICTSI-AGFP Inter-Schools golf tournament at Apalondo and Capitol Hills courses recently.

Oliveros-Ilao fired 40 points and Astrid Montano added 19 for a 32-point total that carded 38.5C past to-competition siblings Andrea and Sarah Pineda, who scored 43 and 31, respectively, at Apalondo in the kick-off leg of a series of weekend events.

The Ateneo boys, meanwhile, excelone their rivals from La Salle Green Hills with a 35-point aggregate at Capitol Hills with Ilarena sending 53 points and Miles Cassling contributing 48 in the event hosted by International Container Terminal Services, Inc. with support from Rizal Sports and Wilson Golf Philippines.

Lyle Cruz led Ateneo in the Midgets 1 division with a 39 to finish behind Ilarena's 36 and Cassling's 37 in the Capitol Hills course.

Cruz will be joined by Ateneo teammates Jose Miguel Cuenco and Jose Miguel Cuenco, who finished with 41 and 42, respectively, at Apalondo.

Ateneo's Jose Miguel Cuenco and Jose Miguel Cuenco, who finished with 41 and 42, respectively, at Apalondo.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

'Martilyo' gangmen got ₱30M

'Taxi' served as getaway car

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE SUSPECTS in Thursday's brazen shopping mall robbery in Pasay City got away with a P30-million loot and escaped by getting into a taxi cab, the city's police chief said yesterday.

The four robbers who attacked Sanlorenzo pawnshop on the third floor of Metropolitan mall may have also bought their "tools"—or the steel pipes they used to break glass cabinets containing jewelry—in the same shopping center before proceeding to their target, according to Senior Supt. Melchor Reyes.

"We believe they bought the pipes inside the mall," Reyes told the reporters in an interview. "But I'm wondering how they were able to bring them guns in."

It all left the 3 p.m. heist, one of the robbers held the pawnshop's unarmed security guard at gunpoint while the other three smashed the display cabinets with steel pipes, he said.

Robbery using such methods have been known in local crime lingo as "martilyo" (hammer) gangsters.

One of them apparently suffered a cut as evidenced by blood stains on the broken glass, Reyes said.

Quoting a report from the pawnshop, Reyes said the stolen jewelry amounted to about P30 million. He said he had asked Sanlorenzo to submit a list of the stolen items for cross-reference.

The suspects fired shots in the air to scare the people inside the pawnshop, and another as they escaped in the hallway, the police official said.

The shots caused panic in the crowded mall, prompting mall guards from giving chase. Motorpoint is often parked as it is connected to both MRT-Edsa Station and LRT-Taft Station.

MRT operations were briefly suspended because of the commotion.

Reyes added that based on eyewitness accounts the suspects boarded a "taxi" to complete their escape.

The Pasay police yesterday also released sketches of the suspects based on descriptions given by the pawnshop clerk, the security guard, and some jeepney terminal barkers outside the mall.

COP GRABS A COKE, BUT NOT THE CROOKS One of the policemen who responded to Thursday's robbery at Metropolitan mall in Pasay City apparently had time to grab some refreshment long after the suspects made their getaway. JAYMEE GAMIL

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Hazing case: 'Lions' snubbing NBI subpoena

Only 3 of 20 fratmen have responded

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation had issued subpoenas for at least 20 students of San Beda law school, including eight officers of Lex Leonum Fraternitas, to shed light on the death of alleged hazing victim Marc Andre Marcos, an agent said.

But only three had responded out of those individuals who were supposed to appear on Aug. 13 at the NBI office in Taguig City, according to NBI-Cavite chief investigator Alex Sebastella.

One of those who responded told the NBI-Cavite in writing that he could not make it due day he must be was preparing for his midterm exam, Sebastella said.

The letters were issued sacred by the parents of the student, whom Sebastella declined to identify for lack of a clearance from his superiors.

Two others had appeared before other NBI agents based at the headquarters in Manila, he said.

According to a list obtained by the inquirer, among the 20 sorority leaders summoned by the NBI were Glan Angelo Sclar, whose father Angelito owns the 22-hectare farm in Tanauan City where Marcos reportedly underwent hazing at the hands of LLF elders.

The youngest Sclar carries the title Tres Reyes Exalted Lieutenant, making him the third highest officer of the organization.

Also summoned by the NBI were Jesus Antonio Villanueva, the fraternity head or its Most Exalted Lyric Infernal Lord; Jerry Santiago, Richard M. Jimenez, Julius Alcantara, Marvin Reyes, Mohammad Fryan Allas, and Chino Amante.

Sebastella said the NBI-Cavite had set another hearing on the case on Aug. 22.

The agent also said the agency had established contacts with some of the fraternity members persons in the hazing case with Marcos.

He added that these members had expressed their willingness to cooperate in the investigation but had yet to issue a sworn statement or appear before the NBI.

Marcos, a 23 year-old San Beda law freshman, died from serious injuries on July 30, a day after undergoing a fraternity initiation in Tanauan City. Members of the LLF were suspected to be behind his death.

On Aug. 3, several LLF alumni, including spokesperson and former Quezon City councilor Ariel Inton, issued a statement denying the organization was involved in hazing.

MARCOS

EDGE OF HER SEATS A resident of Purok 1 in Lilac Valley, Quezon City, finds it a little dicey to keep dry while sitting around her tall-flooded neighborhood

Piles of trash still out there; DOH deploys 'spray' teams

MORE than a week after relentless monsoon rains pounded Metro Manila, the streets are still littered with rubbish flushed out by the floods, the Department of Health (DOH) reported yesterday.

DOH Assistant Capital Region Director Dr. Eduardo Janairo raised the alarm over "the mismix of garbage that are accumulating" in the capital.

Janairo said Health Secretary Enrique Ona had ordered the disinfection and sanitation of mixed-bed of garbage in the streets of Metro Manila to prevent the outbreak of diseases.

He said a disinfectant solution would be sprayed on the trash to reduce the foul odor and kill germs and bacteria.

"We will not wait for an outbreak of various illnesses like flu, fever, diarrhea, cholera and skin problems to happen, that is why sanitation and disinfection teams were already deployed yesterday in areas," Janairo said in a statement.

"We aim for prevention and we will not wait for diseases and other harmful bacteria to spread in populated areas. We should protect our health and that of our children because they are most vulnerable to contracting illness when exposed to these wastes," he added.

ONA

Health officials said roadside trash heaps close to homes and evacuation centers were expected to draw swarms of flies and disease-carrying vermin.

"I strongly advise people to avoid climbing on those heaps or picking up leftovers from piles of garbage. For the waste collectors, be sure to wear protective gear like boots and gloves," Janairo stressed.

"Those who have to collect scraps to sell for profit should wear slippers as well as wash thoroughly with laundry soap and disinfectant after coming from the garbage dumps," the health official added.

Kristine L. Abaro

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Woman scorned hits back

EVEN after being exposed in this space for her compulsive gambling, the wife of a top official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) hasn't left the gambling tables.

"Inggit lang siya sa akin dahil may pinagsi sila at ayu-ay wala (she's just envious because I have money to gamble while he has none)," the woman was quoted as telling her fellow gamblers.

She was obviously referring to ret. Sr. Supt. Yet have the money to gamble but salary days your bosses get your gambling money—from drug traffickers?

* * *

The PDEA official's table reportedly loses hundreds of thousands of pesos every night at a casino in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

She plays the slot machines—those machines at the same time with a minimum bet of P5,000.

Last month, this woman won P440,477, but lost all of it several days later.

While she plays up to the wee hours of the morning, her husband's chores starts for her until she is able to rally it a day inside a black car.

* * *

A Chinoy friend told me his source, who was arrested on suspicion of financing a drug syndicate, was floored of 90 million by PDEA agents.

Despite coughing out the amount, the suspect was still charged with drug trafficking, according to my friend.

I'm not sure whether the gambling woman's husband was involved in the 90-million caper.

* * *

Senior Supt. Yet's feudal Digong, chief of staff of the Quezon City Police District, is facing a case for grave misconduct at the National Police Commission.

The case stems from a sex video where he is allegedly the actor and director, a lo disgraced medical doctor Rayden Ebe.

A former girlfriend reportedly filed the case against him.

Bill Sott on Fury Mo: a woman scorned.

* * *

The foreigners who were charged recently with unlawful trading in securities should have been deported a long time ago.

Apparently, British and Australian nationals Jonathan Thery, Jonathan Whyte, Alexander Cervera, Mathew Prentice, Andrew Yates, Ian Gordon, Erich Nieves and Faisal Burton Khan, pulled some strings after this column exposed their illegal activity years ago.

They were charged with the illegal selling of securities by diretor of Bonsai Sports Club, where they are all officers.

It's surprising they have not been arrested by the Bureau of Immigration and held in custody at the moment prosecutor Jo Herman Tagaing City

ON TARGET Ramon Tulfo

METROBRIEFS

Tesda officer killed in QC

AN EMPLOYEE of a bicycle operators and drivers association (Tesda) in Quezon City was shot dead while a companion was injured by two motorcycle-riding gunmen Thursday night. Ramon Fernando, 39, died before receiving treatment for multiple gunshot wounds on the head and body, while 33-year-old Joseph Tolentino fell to a shot to the leg, he said. A resident of Malagasa Park Subdivision, the single Pasig-Pasig in Novaliches, was a former barangay councilman who was serving as a board member of the local Tesda. Witnesses said he was collecting daily contributions from member drivers when the drive-by shooting occurred at around 10:30 p.m. Case investigator PO2 Felipe Correa suspected that the attack was related to the victim's work in the transport group. Police were checking reports that the victim earlier had an argument with a bicycle owner over the management of the association.

John M. Bonifacio

2 showmakers dead in crash

TWO MEN were killed after their motorcycle crashed into a tree on a center island late Thursday night in Quezon City, Bernido Patrick, 31, and Alfredo Ramos, 37, were both motorcycle riders even though they were wearing helmets, according to traffic investigator PO3 Radiodurath Sesto. The victims, both showmakers and residents of Barangay Commonwealth, died on the spot in front of the Jordan Plains Subdivision on Commonwealth Avenue, Barangay Sta. Monica. They were speeding on a motorcycle cops on a Kawasaki Rouser at around 11:30 p.m. when the bike lost control and hit the tree.

John M. Bonifacio

South Superhighway traffic advisory

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways on Friday advised motorists to avoid the northbound lane of South Superhighway (Coastal Highway) near Magallanes Interchange in view of scheduled repairs. The DPWH said the repairs were to start last night and hours traffic may be expected in the area until Aug. 31. Motorists may take alternative routes via Pasong Tamo Extension and C-5 Circle Arterial (C-5). The repaired portion will be opened to traffic at 5 a.m. on Aug. 22.

Rio S. Santos

St. Michael's-Bacoor Class '87 reunion

HIGH school class '1987' of St. Michael's Institute in Bacoor, Cavite province, will hold its 25th anniversary reunion on Sept. 1 at the SM grounds. The whole-day affair kicks off with a bowling program for children of 7 a.m., a Mass and a motorcade, followed by workouts and a program in the evening. Call Martin Castañeda (ang of 09 17 28 70 250, Mike Gagate at 09219081011, and Anthony Jimenez at 09064038462.

Zambales-Mejia: 50

GLORIA B. Cambales-Mejia died of lung cancer on Aug. 14. She was 50 years old. Mejia is survived by daughters Marabel and Christine Guerrero; sister, Bernalee; and brothers Bernard and Robert. Her remains lie at Thanksgiven Memorial Homes at 11 Mi St. Nawal Street, Novotas City. Interment is on Aug. 21 at Novotas municipal cemetery.

UN ends Syria observer mission

HAMA, SYRIA—The United Nations has called an end to its observer mission in Syria, as activists reported more bloodletting in an attack on civilians in the main battleground city of Aleppo.

The UN decision was announced on Thursday as the international community piled the pressure on President Bashar al-Assad's embattled regime to end 17 months of fighting that is now threatening to entangle neighboring Lebanon.

"The conditions to continue UNSMIS were not fulfilled," French UN ambassador Gerard Araud said after a New York meeting on the conflict, referring to the mission whose mandate is due to end at midnight Sunday.

Major powers have long been at odds on how to end the increasingly brutal battle for Syria, and the withdrawal of the observers followed the collapse of a peace plan drawn up by mediator Kofi Annan.

On the ground, activists reported that Syrian forces shelled a group of people queuing outside a bakery in the Qadi Askar district of eastern Aleppo, the city at the center of the battle between the regime and armed rebels.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 10 people were killed in the district, and that at least 90 had died in violence across the country on Thursday, most of them civilians.

On Wednesday, around 40 people, including women and children, were killed in a massive air strike on civilians in the rebel bastion of Azaz, just north of Aleppo, according to rights groups and residents.

Human Rights Watch urged the UN Security Council to impose an arms embargo on Syria after the air strike on Azaz. "Yet again, Syrian government forces attacked with callous disregard for civilian life," it said.

Mohammed Nur, director of the now closed Azaz media center, said 40 people were killed, including 10 from one coastal family—and 150 wounded.

"Bashar al-Assad doesn't care where the bombs land and in any case, his pilots are not that accurate," he said.

With the violence showing no signs of abating, Russia, which has with China blocked three UN resolutions on the crisis, said the world powers to make a joint appeal for the regime and rebels to end the fighting.

Russia has called a meeting in New York on Friday of UN ambassadors from the so-called International Contact Group on Syria.

It was not immediately clear whether the Western powers—still angry at Russia and China for their refusal of the UN resolutions—would attend the New York meeting.

The United States said on Thursday it held "serious" talks with Russia about Syria after months of disagreement over the bloodshed and renewed its call for a political transition.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi also urged a visiting Syrian envoy to implement a ceasefire and accept international mediation.

But French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius renewed calls for Assad to go. AFP

PROTESTERS sing as they hold weapons outside a South African mine in Rustenburg, 100 km northwest of Johannesburg, on Aug. 16. REUTERS

South Africa police fire on miners; 36 dead

MARIKANA, South Africa—Scores of people were killed after South African police opened fire on hundreds of armed workers on a striking strike as a platinum mine, in one of the deadliest days of protest since apartheid.

Police gave a toll of 38 and rising, while the powerful National Union of Mineworkers said 18 had died in clashes broadcast repeatedly on national television.

The scenes of police in bulletproof vests, some riding horses, and firing into a dusty landscape evoked memories of tragic incidents under white minority rule.

At the Marikana mine, a force of mostly black workers fired from a record of black workers, who police said were advancing on them with guns and machetes.

"The police were shooting (unwilling) the barbed wire...which people had guns, and people were advancing as I say with their weapons (machetes) and everything else including firearms," police commissioner Riah Phiyega said, putting the death toll at more than 30.

"A lot of people were injured and the number keeps on going up," he told local radio.

"This was not supposed to happen, and we have always emphasized this thing that we have laws in this country which allows people to apply for strike, for marching, for demonstration, and we still think people should not ignore the pillars of this land," he said, his voice crashing.

NUM Secretary General Frans Baleni put the toll at 30, and blamed the unrest on the radical Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu), which has been trying to grow its membership.

"They made them promises which can never be delivered, and in the process organized an illegal action which was violent and which led to a loss of lives," he told local radio.

The strikes strike started on Aug. 10, as a group of workers dissatisfied that London-listed Lonmin rights their wages from the current monthly salary of about 4,000 rand ($486, 400 euros).

Ten people, including two police, were killed in a similar disgruntled face-to-face between the unions—with several victims violently backed to death. AFP

Impasse means Assange faces long stay in Ecuador Embassy

LONDON—In this corner's indecision that Julian Assange adopted as founder of the secrecy-busting organization WikiLeaks, he made a lifestyle of sleeping on borrowed sofas and fostering a legend for himself as a man without a place or a country to call home.

But now, after Ecuador's decision on Thursday to grant him asylum and Britain's vow to arrest him the moment he steps out of the sanctuary he has found in Ecuador's embassy in London, the Australian-born Assange seems at last to have secured a fixed address. Considering the diplomatic standoff and the subsistence of opinion on both sides, it is one that could be his for months, or even years, if not, that Ecuador and Britain relent.

The address—3 Hans Crescent—lies in the heart of London's exclusive Knights-bridge district, barely 50 yards from Assange's safe house in the men's clothing section of Harrods department store, one of Europe's most expensive places to shop.

But for all its attractions—detailed him, in any case, by his confinement to the embassy—it is hardly the sanctuary that Assange would have chosen. At first sight, he has been the watchful prisoner of a movement set to transcend boundaries of nationality, reason and law, using WikiLeaks to tear down walls of secrecy and foster a new era of global transparency and justice.

The secret he has most sworn than any other to lose, that he would not be safe in any legal prison, and one without limit of sentence. His sparseness with an ex-mistress and on an office floor, and a wish not to gaze in the direction of London's distant airports, and the possibility of a separate at a flight to Ecuador, one of the few countries left where he would be beyond the reach of betrayal.

AN ESSENCE supporter outside the Ecuador Embassy AP

For now, that flight might as well be a million miles away, given the 20-to-30-hour-hour first officers keeping a 24-hour vigil outside the embassy. Friends who have visited Assange say he has a computer and a broadband connection, at least one cell phone, and regular deliveries of takeout food, carefully inspected by the police.

Conceivably, Prime Minister David Cameron's government could yet follow through on its warning to Ecuador before the asylum decision that it might invoke an obscure British law that would empower it to suspend the embassy's immunity and send the police in to arrest Assange.

The government has been frustrated by Assange's decision to camp a 20-month legal battle against extradition to Sweden on three questioning on allegations that he sexually assaulted two young women during a visit to Stockholm in 2010—allegations he strenuously denies—by fleeing to the embassy. It was a battle he took all the way to Britain's Supreme Court and lost, after running up millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded legal fees. WIRES

Bombs, gun attacks kill 53 in Iraq ahead of Ramadan end

BAGHDAD—A spate of bombings and gun attacks that killed at least 53 people in Iraq overshadowed preparations on Friday to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan, amid warnings that insurgents could step up violence.

The violence on Thursday, the deadliest in a single day since unrest last month killed 115 on July 23, struck 15 cities and towns nationwide and left 260 wounded in more than a dozen explosions and shootings across the country.

The latest unrest takes the overall death toll from violence this month to 198, according to an AFP tally based on security and medical sources.

It has raised tensions as the country prepares for BAGHDAD bombings at the weekend to mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

The deadliest violence on Thursday struck in mid-morning Baghdad, where 26 people were killed in a series of bombings.

In the predominantly Shiite north Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City, 13 people were killed and 41 wounded by an evening explosion, while six people were killed and 26 wounded by a car bomb in the Shiite district of Shaab, also in the north of the capital, security and medical officials said.

North of Baghdad, gunmen with silenced weapons attacked a checkpoint in Mansur, killing at least six soldiers and wounding seven others, security forces and medical officials said.

And three other people were killed and 11 wounded by term blasts in the near-blighted neighborhood of Zafraniyah.

In Tal Afar, north of Baghdad, a suicide bomber wearing an explosives belt killed six people and wounded 18 others, police Lt. Abed Ghayib and Dr. Mohammed Tawfik said.

A series of attacks in Kirkuk province, north of Baghdad, killed nine people. AFP

Japan to send back Chinese sea activists to avoid row

TOKYO/BEIJING—Japan is to send home 14 Chinese activists who were detained after some of them landed on an island claimed by both Tokyo and Beijing, but ease fears from Beijing and South Korea showed the latest flareups in territorial disputes were far from over.

Japan and China, Asia's two largest economies, have been at odds since the activists were detained on Wednesday after setting a boat on land on the rocky, uninhabited islets known as the Senkakus in Japan and the Diaoyu in China.

Separately, Japanese Finance Minister Jun Azumi said he was postponing a trip to South Korea for a bilateral finance ministers' meeting scheduled for Aug. 20 because of a trip made by South Korean President Lee Myung-bak to other disputed islands to north again.

Japan will also review a bilateral currency swap agreement struck with South Korea last year, Azumi said.

The quarrels are among several dogging Japan's ties with neighbors China and South Korea rarely seven decades after the end of World War II.

Beijing has demanded the immediate release of the Chinese activists after they reached the islands, which is near potentially rich gas reserves.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said repeatedly in Tokyo the activists would be deported.

"There is still some paperwork to go through, so I can't comment on exactly what time this will happen," he said, adding that arrangements for sending them back were nearly finished.

Despite that, the Chinese government indicated that tensions over the territorial dispute remained.

"China's claims on the Diaoyu Islands have a clear and firm. Any unilateral measures that Japan takes regarding the Chinese nationals are illegal and lack efficacy," the Chinese Foreign Ministry's chief spokesperson, Qin Gang, said in a statement on the ministry's website. Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
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INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATED SALE (BEST OFFER)

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Project	Location	Property Description
Bonanzaville	Brgy. Calbiga, San City	A 37,820-sqm. property consisting of three (3) lots
Hacienda Valley	Brgy. Pinutil, Dinalupihan, Bataan	A 77,859-sqm. property consisting of 235 lots and 30 houses and lots in various stages of development

1. The disposition of the properties shall be as per "AS IS WHERE IS" basis under the following terms and conditions:
   - For outright sale proposals, terms of payment may be in cash or installment basis; and
   - For JVA, the proposed terms and conditions must be indicative.
2. All interested buyers must meet the Eligibility Requirements (ER) of HGC.
3. All interested buyers are required to inspect the said properties before tendering their offers.
4. For purchase proposals under installment sale or JVA, the proposal shall specifically indicate the proposed business plan for each of the properties.
5. Details of the properties as well as the guidelines for the negotiated sale can be obtained from the HGC Asset Management Department (AMD) offices located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 330 Gen. Luis J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per project.
6. The ER and Financial Proposals shall be sealed and dropped at the designated drop boxes located at the AMD office.
7. Schedule of activities:

ACTIVITIES	BONANVILLE	HACIENDA VALLEY
a. Issuance of Sales Documents (Instructions to Prospective Buyers, List of ER and Property Profile)	August (1) to September 7, 2012	
b. Pre-Negotiation Conference	September 6, 2012 (Thursday, 10:00 a.m.)	September 6, 2012 (Thursday, 3:00 p.m.)
c. Deadline for Submission of ER and Financial Proposals	September 12, 2012 (Thursday, 12:00 p.m.)	September 13, 2012 (Thursday, 2:00 p.m.)

8. Interested buyers are advised to check the titles for liens and encumbrances and the condition and status of the properties.
9. The Commission of Proposals shall not bind the Corporation to award the sale of the properties to the parties canvassed.

For inquiries, please call our Asset Management Department at telephone numbers 896-0435 and 897-3145 or visit our office at the 4th Floor Jade Building, 330 Gen. Luis Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Contact persons:

- Bonanvile Project — Engr. Jonathan Briones
- Hacienda Valley Project — Mr. Erwin Vela

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY PROPOSALS, OR TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED BEST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

Raul I. CORAZON O. DOMPLO
Acting Executive Vice President

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ruivivar

Israel leader against any solo attack on Iran

JERUSALEM—Israeli President Shimon Peres on Thursday came out against any go-it-alone Israeli attack on Iran, saying he trusted US President Barack Obama's pledge to prevent Tehran from producing nuclear weapons.

His comments appeared to challenge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who have both raised the prospect of a unilateral Israeli strike, despite assurances from Washington it will not let Israel be the aviation bullet.

"I am convinced this is an American mission. I am convinced (Obama) recognizes the dangers Israel and he will stop them," Peres told Channel Two television.

"Now, it's clear to us that we can't do it alone. We can delay (Iran's nuclear program). It's clear to us we have to proceed together with America. There are questions about coordination and timing, but as regards us the danger is, this time at least we are not alone."

PERES

A flurry of comments by Israeli officials and media reports over the past week have put financial markets on edge by appearing to suggest an attack would be launched before the US presidential election in November.

An unidentified top "decision maker," widely believed to be Barak, told Haaretz newspaper last Friday that Israel "can not place the responsibility for an security and future event in the hands of its greatest ally," a reference to the United States.

Peres said in the interview that he did not believe Israel would launch an attack on Iran before November.

As president, Peres, 89, has little political power in Israel. But he has won the respect of many Israelis while serving in the post and his opposition to any unilateral action poses an additional challenge to the outspoken.

A political source close to Netanyahu issued an angry response to Peres' comments shortly after the president's interview was aired.

"Never has forgotten what the role of Israel's president is. He has forgotten that he made three major mistakes in regard to Israel's security. His greatest mistake was in 2003 when he thought bombing the reactor in Iraq was wrong, and, to this day, none of Israel's citizens, Prime Minister Begin ignored him," he said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

In 1981 Israeli warplanes destroyed the Osirak nuclear facility near Baghdad. Reuters

MORE REASONS IT'S SO TIME TO SWITCH

Do you ever stop to think how much you spend on your daily essentials? Things like cotton buds, tooth brushes, even shampoo-and-rub-up to a pretty hefty chunk of change over, say, a month's time. That's why so many people are going wild over Watsons Label. You get great quality and save a good amount of money at the same time. And since there's the P50 ON US sale on when you buy P300 worth of Watsons Label products, you get an extra P50 off. Do you need any more reasons to switch? Well, just in case, here are a few more saving tips from a few high-profile switchers.

TESSA'S TIPS

"People ask me how I am able to manage effortlessly all the time, like everyday to run the errands, shoot, attend meetings, spend time with family. And Label has a good answer because I love Watsons Label because it takes care of my basic needs. I've already saving, there so I can really splurge on the things that I just want. It makes me look good, feel good, have fun!"

DIANE'S DEALS

"Ever since my days when I was an up-and-coming model, I got a chance to use watsons. Ever since then, I've been a loyal watsons customer. And as much as I can, I take it back to my roots. Watsons Label products that's important and in touch of the skin, so that's why I take it back to where it all started. Watsons! One Christmas, my friend gave me a box of watsons products and I never forgot the goodness because it was more than I could ever imagine. I've tried a number of products, I've tried a lot of brands, I could get more than you can think of, but there's the one thing about Watsons Label watsons, everybody needs it and nothing is stopping you from branding more, and more in price!"

KATTY'S PHILOSOPHY

"Watsons has been my go-to store for all my health and beauty products. It's only here in the Philippines that I can go to [illegible] and find watsons products. I think watsons Label has a good range of products. I tried it, I've been using it, I've been happy to have confidence with watsons. They regulate their products. They've proved to us of top-grade quality too. It was so easy for me to make the change! The transitioning and saving was great. Now I use Watsons Label facial wash, facial toner, facial scrub, facial cleanser, facial wipes, [illegible] and even shampoo! Now I'm also known more to watsons Label products. I've been using watsons Label products for a long time now. I've been using watsons Label products for a long time now."

VICTOR'S VERDICT

"Everyone knows how good shop. We go inside a store and go what we want. We don't like thinking too much about a purchase. Now, when the services are to us a little that somehow quality and affordable? It's to be honest. You need a shower that's not too expensive but gives quality to your skin, get Watsons Label. You need a mouthwash that does the job, choose Watsons Label. Need something? Check it they have a Watsons Label counterpart and you can never go wrong, basically."

There you have it. Great quality, great savings, and, overall, some great all-in-one items some smart shoppers. Remember next time you run out of your basics, run on over to Watsons and take advantage of the P50 ON US sale. There's never been a better time to Switch and Save.

₱50 ON US

Check out Watsons' P50 ON US Sale going on from August 1 to October 31 2012.

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Gov't fails to sell 4 power barges

Bidding, negotiation with Trans-Asia Oil unsuccessful

By Amy R. Raros

THE STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. yesterday said the negotiations on the sale of four diesel-fired power barges failed anew after Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. was not able to match the reserve price for all the facilities.

According to PSALM president and CEO Emmanuel D. Ledesma Jr., Trans-Asia Oil decided not to match the reserve price and that the difference with the offer presented by the Pilmico-led company was "substantial."

Trans-Asia Oil quoted a price of P620 million for Power Barges 101 and 102, P1 million for Power Barge 3 and P513 million for Power Barge 4, or a total of P95 million. PSALM, however, did not disclose the reserve price for the assets.

This was the third time that PSALM has attempted to sell the power barges and failed.

The first bidding held in May this year was abandoned a failure after PSALM received only one offer from ACEN Power Corp., a joint venture between the Ayala group's AC Energy Holdings and Trans-Asia Oil.

The second bidding was held yesterday but was declared a failure after receiving again only one offer, this time from Trans-Asia Oil. PSALM was expecting two offer groups to submit offers, namely First Gen Hydro Energy Inc. and Colonial Energy and Dev...

gov't to...

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Aug. 17, 20 H
42.420

STOCK MARKET
Aug. 17, 20 C
12.7

Stocks end lower

THE LOCAL stock index dipped yesterday ahead of an extended weekend break but managed to stay above the 5,200 support level amid flat to regional markets.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 12.7 points or 0.24 percent to close at 5,208.81 in muted trade at the first day of the so-called "ghost" month in the local calendar when Asian...

STOCKS 4C

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SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION SERIES "2" PREFERRED SHARES

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7.500% p.a
▶ Series "2-A" callable starting 3rd year with a step-up on the 5th year

7.625% p.a
▶ Series "2-B" callable starting 5th year with a step-up on the 7th year

8.000% p.a
▶ Series "2-C" callable starting 7th year with a step-up on the 10th year

Copies of the Prospectus are available through the following banks:

Sole Issue Manager and Joint Bookrunner

HSBC

Joint Bookrunners

UNIONBANK BDO CHINABANK RCBC FIRST METRO ING SB CAPITAL Standard Chartered UCPB

Yuchengcos revive interest in acquiring Export Bank

Joins BDO in bidding for shuttered firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

YUCHENGCO-led Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. has revived its interest to take over Export and Industry Bank, a shuttered commercial bank to be auctioned by its receiver, the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, RCBC said it had expressed interest to participate in the bidding for Export Bank. "The bank is presently conducting due diligence under the supervision of the PDIC," the disclosure said.

"The bank continues to study opportunities in acquiring small- to medium-sized banks in line with its strategy to grow its branch network," the bank added.

RCBC is likewise awaiting the final bidding parameters as well as the rules and timetable from PDIC, the bank said.

Interested bidders were given by PDIC until last Aug. 15 to submit its letter and pre-qualification documents.

The Yuchengco-led commercial bank was in the advanced stages of discussions to acquire Export Bank years ago but this did not push through. Eventually, Banco de Oro Unibank emerged as the white knight instead. BDO's longstanding deal with the shareholders of Export Bank to take over the latter's assets and liabilities, however, was disrupted by a court case against a brokerage unit of Export Bank.

After Export Bank was placed under receivership in late April, however, BDO said it was still interested in the bank. BDO submitted a written proposal to regulators saying that it was prepared to "move in immediately" and take over Export Bank's estimated P34 billion in deposit liabilities. Only about P6 billion of Export Bank's deposits were covered by PDIC insurance.

Being the bank's receiver, however, PDIC decided to bid out the right to take over the assets and liabilities of Export Bank.

RCBC's interest gives BDO some competition in its bid to take over Export Bank.

Megaworld maintains triple-A issuer rating

By Dustin L. Lucas

LOCAL debt watcher Credit Rating and Investors Services Philippines Inc. (Crisp) yesterday reaffirmed its "AAA" issuer rating for property developer Megaworld Corp.

In a statement, Crisp said that its rating on the publicly listed firm reflected the company's "sustained levels of strong business performance, dominance in high growth segments of the real estate market and an effective landbanking strategy."

"Crisp assigned a stable credit outlook for Megaworld's issuer rating as [we] continue to believe that Mega-world's continued strong business performance and a positive and realistic industry outlook, particularly for the BPO market, will be sustained," the debt watcher added.

In its most recent disclosure, Megaworld reported a 14.6-percent increase in core net income, boosted by its continued growth in real estate sales and robust office rental income in the first half of 2012. Megaworld's real estate sales and rental income grew 14 percent and 38.5 percent, respectively, compared to the same period in 2011. Real estate sales and rental income make up 75 percent of Megaworld's total revenues.

A recent report by UBS Investment Bank Philippines had Megaworld topping the competitive real estate market with a 35.6-percent and 16.5-percent share, respectively, of the total residential condominium units and aggregate saleable area brought on line from 2000 to 2011.

Megaworld has developed 3.9 million square meters over the same period, the unit of which is said. This year, anticipated challenges from competitors would cause Megaworld's market share to decline slightly, but was expected to remain on top in both categories, it added.

Crisp credited Megaworld's effective landbanking strategy that gave it access to approximately 180 hectares of land in strategic locations in metro Manila, allowing it "to meet the growing market demand and stiff competition for real estate buyers and office leasers."

Controlled by real estate and gaming tycoon Andrew Tan, the firm has earmarked P25 billion for capital spending this year.

Stocks end lower

From page B1

investors tend to be more cautious. For the week, the index was down by about 3 percent.

The PSEi was led lower by the financial, services and property sectors but the impact was tempered by the gains made by the industrial, holding firm and mining-oil sectors.

Value turnover amounted to P6 billion. Despite the overall index decline, there were 77 advancers that edged out 68 decliners while 60 stocks were unchanged.

The index was led lower by Metrobank (-1.42 percent) after a negative net tic in index weight during the latest MSCI review. Globe Telecom (-1.46 percent), JFC (-1.6 percent) and SM (-1.59 percent) were also among the index decliners.

Ayala land, SM Prime, PLDT, BDO and ABS also contributed to the day's decline.

Doris C. Dumlao

Manulife Philippines Group Advisory

To our valued Manulife customers:

Manulife continues to extend help and by one with the Filipino people during times of difficulty. As we have done in the past, we have extended the grace period for an additional sixty (60) calendar days, making a total of 91 days (31 days regular + 60 days extension) for those clients affected until the recent torrential rains that caused flooding in the following areas:

National Capital Region	Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Pateros, Quezon City, San Juan, Taguig, Valenzuela City
Region I	Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan
Region III	Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales
Region IV-A	Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal
Region IV-B	Occidental Mindoro
Region VI	Iloilo

- The sixty (60) calendar day extension will apply to ALL life insurance policies issued and assumed by **The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. (Phils.), Inc. ("Manulife Philippines")** whose due dates fall from **July 7, 2012 through September 7, 2012**.
- The sixty (60) calendar day extension will also apply to ALL life insurance policies issued by the **Manulife Chinabank Life Assurance Corporation** whose due dates fall from **July 7, 2012 through September 7, 2012.**
- The sixty (60) calendar day extension will apply to ALL pension and education plans issued and assumed by **Manulife Financial Plans, Inc.** whose due dates fall from **June 7, 2012 through September 7, 2012**.

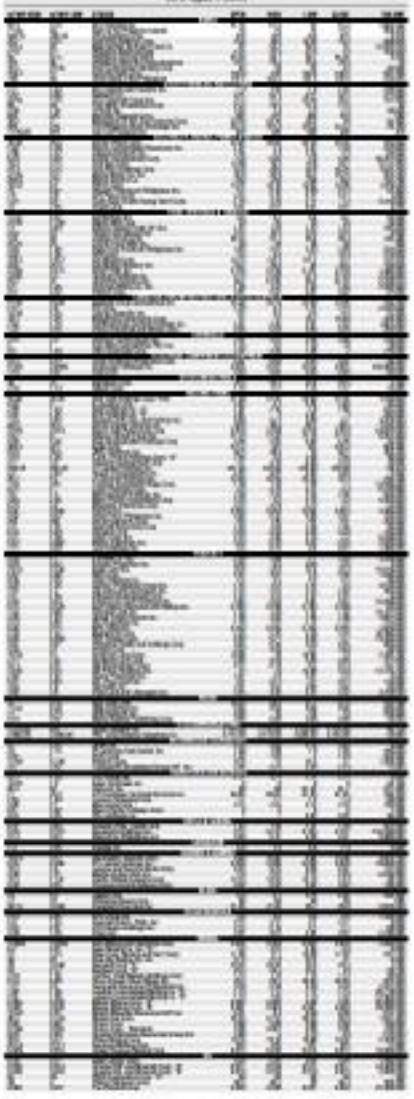
Likewise, we will be waiving the duplicate policy fee for those clients who have lost/damaged their policy contracts due to the above incident. We will allow processing for all requests up to September 7, 2012.

Client Services and Branch Operations personnel at our Makati City Head Office and Branches nationwide will be available during office hours to entertain the concerns of our walk-in policyholders, planholders and their beneficiaries.

Metro Manila customers may also directly contact **Manulife Customer Care at (02) 884-7000** while provincial customers may call toll free at **1-800-1-888-MANU (62268)** during office hours, e-mail at **philcustomercare@manulife.com** or visit our company website **www.manulife.com.ph** and/or customer service website **www.mylifemanulife.com.ph**.

Manulife

Protection Wealth Savings Education Health



Gov't awards ₱16.3-B schoolbuilding project

9,301 classrooms in 3 regions

By Doris E. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT sealed its second public-private partnership (PPP) project with the awarding of contracts to build 9,301 classrooms worth ₱16.3 billion to a group led by former Metro Manila Development Authority chief Bayani Fernando and publicity-loved socialite Kris Meganskie-Cruz.

Remancipo consortium of SF Corp. and Riverbanks Development Corp. won the build-lease-transfer contract for school infrastructure (package A) for Region 1 with an annual lease payment cost to the Department of Education (DepEd) of about ₱5943 million a year for 10 years, Education Undersecretary Francis Simbs said in an interview.

Megawide, in partnership with Citicore Investment Holdings Inc., won the school infrastructure PPP packages (6 and 8) for Regions III and IV-A, respectively, with lease payments worth ₱623 million and ₱700 million a year for the next 10 years, Simbs said.

The winning bids were close to the maximum annual lease payment that the government was willing to pay for the school infrastructure project. The ceiling for package A was ₱6963 million while the respective ceilings for packages B and C were ₱820 million and ₱768.2 million, Simbs said. Overall, the government had budgeted as much as ₱16.4 billion for the project for a 10-year period.

These figures represent the annual lease payment to be made by DepEd to the winning bidders within the next 10 years in exchange for the construction of the school buildings. The 9,301 classrooms refer to the total number of classrooms to be built within the next 16 months for the three packages.

The cost will include the building as well as the furniture and toilets as well as fixtures such as electric fans and blackboards.

Fernando's project is worth ₱5.41 billion payable over a 10-year period involving the building of 2,137 classrooms, while Megawide's projects are worth ₱5.21 billion and ₱5.6 billion, respectively. Megawide will build 2,885-classroom under package B and 4,279 under package C.

The PPP project will involve the infrastructure design, financing and construction of about 9,300 one-storey and two-storey classrooms in order to supplement the current program of the DepEd in reducing the classroom backlog. By offering school infrastructure for PPP the DepEd frees up more budget for other expenditures.

About 69 percent of the classrooms to be built are two-storey classrooms while 31 percent are single-storey units.

Gov't fails

From page B1

or Clos Corp., but these firms were not present during yesterday's bidding.

Immediately after the declaration of a failed bidding at noon yesterday, Cojuangco and the PSALM board immediately gave it go-ahead for PSALM to enter into negotiations with Team Sual Oil for the sale of Unit 1 at Sual 1GL to 30¢.

The failure to sell these lumps even under the terms of a negotiated bid may worsen the expected critical power situation in Mindanao by summer of next year as the government sees a 200-megawatt supply shortage in the electricity-starved island.

The government has been banking on these power lumps to provide the much needed capacity in Mindanao by 2013.

One of the conditions in the sale of the power lumps was that the winning bidder must complete the three Sharp-fueled power lumps in Mindanao as soon as possible. PR 301 and 302 are both stationed in Balingasag Cluster in Bukidnon, Misamis, Iligan, while PR 106 is at the Malaya Complex in Barg, Davao City.

According to Leviste, the PSALM board would have to discuss the next step after two unsuccessful bidding attempts and a failed negotiation. Under the procedure, with all options subject to board approval, PSALM could either rebid or renegotiate with potential buyers.

"We're just implementing the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which clearly states that we are tasked to privatize all the assets. It's not an option for the government to keep for us, so we have to rebid," Leviste stressed.

After the power lumps, PSALM will also bid out in the fourth quarter the independent power producer administrator contracts for the United Asia geothermal complex and the Caucasian hydropower facility in Davao Del...

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camarines Sur
MUNICIPALITY OF NAGA

PROCUREMENT OF RECONDITIONED DUMPTRUCKS

Trans-Asia Oil junks heat waste study

Phinma unit says group intends to 'reorder' energy priorities

By Amy R. Borra

PHINMA-led Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. has shelved plans to invest in a resource that will look into the feasibility of a "heat waste project" in the Philippines, as it intends to focus more on to renewable energy projects the past.

In a text message to reporters, Trans-Asia Oil president Francisco Viray explained that this development came about as the company "had reordered [its] priorities" for 2012.

More specifically, "trans-Asia is moving to prioritize its more recent wind project, following the issuance of the much-awaited feed-in-tariff rates last last month.

Viray said in an earlier interview that they would be pushing through with the 54.5 billion SG megawatt Guimaras wind farm this year, after having delayed the project for several years due to the absence of feed-in-tariff rates. The company, he had added, would start mobilizing within the year activities related to the construction of the wind farm.

As of end-December 2011, Trans-Asia Oil has a total of 22 wind service contracts, which will comprise part of a renewable portfolio with an estimated 20.1 MW in combined capacity. A portfolio of this capacity may require investments of roughly $650 million, based on the general rule that at least $2.5 million would be needed to produce of megawatt of wind power.

Meanwhile, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Thursday, Trans-Asia Oil reported that it has already notified Geopacific Energy Ltd. and Chet Energy Pte Inc. that it was terminating its participation in the memorandum of agreement it signed on July 25, 2011 regarding a waste heat project development in the country. The termination will take effect 45 days from June 14.

In recall, Trans-Asia had signed the agreement last year with Geopacific Energy and Chet Energy "for joint assessment of opportunities for commercialization of energy generated by waste heat resources in the Philippines."

Waste heat resources refer to the heat generated from industrial processes. When recovered, the waste heat can be converted into electricity using large-scale steam turbines.

If the venture has been deemed feasible, the group is looking at possibly putting up a power plant that would use on waste heat. Among the prospective sites identified by the group included industrial parks, cement and glass manufacturing plants, power stations and gumbo coal fields.

THE NATIONAL Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) inked P300 million in bonds on the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx) recently. Present during the transaction were (from left) Land Bank of the Philippines president and CEO Gilda Pico, PDEx chair Vicente Castillo, Vice President Jaipinar Binay, NHMFC president Fulchiero Bustos Jr., Securities and Exchange Commission chair Teresita Herbosa, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas deputy governor Diwa Guinigundo and PDEx president Cesar Crisol.

Eton Properties income dips in H1

By Daxiel L. Lucas

THE REAL estate arm of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies—Eton Properties Philippines Inc.—posted a net income of P211 million net income in the first half of 2012 on the back of P900 million in revenues, the company said yesterday.

In a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Eton said that revenues in the first six months of the year did be 60 percent from P1.56 billion in the same period last year, partly due to the recognition of sales of projects that have yet to commence construction.

The company uses the percentage-of-completion method in recognizing residential project revenues.

While construction of Eton's ongoing residential projects continued, the realization of certain of its projects were announced full-blast in the first half, construction activities in Amaia Heights Residences, First Homes Makati and West Wing Villas were moved back to give way to design improvements and enhancements.

Despite construction delays, however, the company said it will expect to post net income of about P300 million for 2012.

"We started bank construction timetables of some projects for much-needed design improvements," Eton's officer in charge Michael Tan said. "These range from road widths to building facade."

He added that these enhancements "would definitely add value to these projects in terms of quality and functionality."

"This is no different from what we did in 2007 for The Eton Residences Greenbelt, which are nominated as a Hong Kong-based architectural firm, Palmer and Turner, to redesign the building facade," Tan explained. "This is one reason why sales have been already fully-sold the project."

Tan said he expects the recognition of income for these projects once construction begins. For the fully-sold West Wing Villas, construction is expected to start in September this year, while the high-rise First Homes Makati and Amaia Heights Residences will commence in the first quarter of 2013.

First Homes Makati is a 34-storey condominium project along Sheng Yutna, Makati, just steps away from Ayala Avenue.

Recently, the company launched Hamea Manna, the 11th cluster of The Manors at North Fairview Commercial in Quezon City, an eastern fronting 16 clusters of five-storey mid-rise buildings.

The Manors also plans to launch within the year a Quezon City project featuring mid-rise and high-rise condominiums, a residential condominium for the high-end market in Makati and the second tower of First Homes Makati.

In the five years since it was founded, Eton expanded its portfolio to over 40 projects. Eton's portfolio of launched and completed projects encompasses residential, commercial, office projects and township developments.

AMA Group to build ₱2.6-B Alabang condo building

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PROPERTY development arm of the AMA group is breaking into the Alabang property market with the launch of a 22-story contemporary condominium that brings to market P2.6 billion worth of new development inventory.

Pico Development has started pre-selling 696 residential units for its mid-rise building called "The Chelsea Residences" which a targeted for turnover to buyers by 2016, top officials announced in a press briefing on Friday.

Given the strong market response to this new offering, Pico general manager Danilo Argao said the company would likely be able to sell all available units in a year's time. As an initial offering, the residential units began selling for about P79,000 per square meter but after the first 70 units were taken up, the selling price was raised to P79,000 per square meter.

Construction of the project, which is located along Montecastro St. near the Alabang Export Road, is expected to start by next year, Argao said.

Views that Alabang is known for having the highest ratio of open spaces is developed hand, Pico Development ventured in the housing, agreed that will complement its feedback investment," Argao said. "With residential units more infused with the comforts of suburban locale, The Chelsea Residences offer a suburban community set amidst a flourishing landscape."

Pico is investing about P1.3 billion in the project. Total sales value of residential units to be sold will range between P2.3 billion and P2.6 billion.

The studio-unit mix includes 372 standard units with an area of 24.50 sqms, 48 unit/s/loft, one units sized at 27-48 sqms and three studio-with-garden units sized at 51.36 sqms.

The one-bedroom units range between 35 and 56 sqms, some of which are standard units while others have a balcony or a garden. The two-bedroom units range between 56 and 65 sqms, some of which have either a balcony or a garden while others are standard units.

The most valuable units are the penthouse units with sizes ranging from 96 to 101 sqms. There are only two two-bedroom units with balcony (96-106 sqms) and two three-bedroom units (107-192 sqms).

The Chelsea Residences, which targets young people and upstart families, seeks to take the concept of "smart modern living to a whole new depths," Argao said. Apart from the P8.16 million worth of amenities it has, it features that seek to establish it as the first "intelligent" building in Alabang. Residents, for instance, have the option to subscribe to a service that can put location markers for small children.

"With its comfortable living spaces, state-of-the-art facilities and highly advanced connectivity and amenities integrations, The Chelsea Residences allows dynamic individuals to live-life from a balanced way of life that is enriched with Alabang's potential for industrial growth and recreational fulfillment," Argao said.

Lock & Lock Initiates Bazaar Sale for the Benefit of Flood Victims

The Filipino ideology comes on the concept of family, that no matter where you're from or what you do, for as long as you are a Kababayan, you are valuable. And that is why given the recent events of calamity and unpredictable weather that brought thousands of our fellow countrymen into places to many situations; there is a call that is just undeniable.

The nation-leading provider for home plastic wares and storage solutions Lock & Lock, is holding out an event in which products that are both useful and a good investment for the home will be available for sale. Most of the products will be slashed off up to 60%. And to further the help for our families who were affected by the heavy rains and floods, proceeds of the event will be donated to support them and give them enough budget to survive daily life.

From August 18, from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM and August 19 to 21, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, at the lobby of Megastore Building in Araneta Avenue, near The Sanctuarium and across Toyota, everyone is invited to share the spirit of sharing and being in the most ready state in times of need.

For more information, call 09323740403.

Pacific Online H1 earnings inched higher

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PROFITS of publicly-listed gaming firm Pacific Online Systems Corp. inched higher in the first half of the year as it continued to expand its network of electronic terminals that it operates for the government.

In a disclosure on Friday, the company—which trades under the symbol "LOTO"—said it ended the six-month period with a net income of P265.8 million. This was 11 percent year higher than the January to June period of last year.

This came as total revenues rose by a tenth to P753.3 million from last year's P683.3 million.

Stripping out extraordinary gains, Pacific Online ended the first half with a profit of P281 million or just 2 percent higher year on year.

"The modest growth in the first semester, as cited above, was mainly due to the increase in terminals deployed for both lotto and Keno operations, which resulted in higher lottery sales," the company told the local bourse.

In its first half report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Pacific Online said expenses rose 10 percent to P469.3 million from P426.8 million last year. The increase stemmed mainly from higher subscription licensing costs that are linked to the expansion of Pacific Online's terminal network.

Last June, Pacific Online signed a deal with the state-run Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to be the rollout of an additional 600 lottery terminals in the company's nationwide area of Visayas and Mindanao.

This was part of the PCSO's goal of reaching some P80 billion in annual revenues to make it one of the biggest contributors to state coffers.

The new terminals would go on top of the 2,039 lotto outlets the company already operates on the PCSO's behalf.

In the same deal with the PCSO, Pacific Online got government to lease for the existing terminals reduced to 9.05 percent for the year 2013, from the 10 percent the company used to get.

The reduction of the lease fees for existing terminals and the lower rate approved for the new terminals mean savings for the government, if these are compared on a per terminal basis.

Property sector outpaced other industries in Q1

By Aiza G. Rez

THE REAL estate sector posted the fastest sales growth among the country's major industries in the first quarter of 2012, while redevelopment was second in the manufacturing industry, according to a recent National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) report.

The total gross revenue index of industries increased by 11.3 percent in the first quarter of 2012, the NSCB said.

The real estate sector registered the highest growth at 28.1 percent followed by trade at 25.9 percent and finance at 12.7 percent.

NSCB added that decent performances were observed in the private services sector, which grew 9.4 percent and transportation, communication and storage which expanded by 6.6 percent.

However gains in the manufacturing industry slowed, growing only by 1.1 percent in the first quarter of 2012 from 12.9 percent during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the total employment index rose 3 percent in the first quarter of 2012, down from 4.7 percent a year ago.

The real estate sector also topped the employment index growing at 8.1 percent, the fastest since the fourth quarter of 2007.

"All other sectors recorded positive growth in employment index except for trade which declined by 0.9 percent," the NSCB said.

The total compensation index, which represents the salaries and wages paid out by industries in cash and in kind, increased by 6.6 percent in the first quarter of 2012 from 6.1 percent in the same period last year.

Under the compensation index, private services ranked the highest growth with 14.6 percent followed by mining and quarrying with 11.2 percent, real estate with 10.6 percent and manufacturing with 6.8 percent.

The finance sector dipped by 15.1 percent in the compensation index, its third quarter of poor performance according to NSCB.

The total compensation per employee index expanded to 4.7 percent in the first quarter of the year from 1.4 percent in the same period last year on robust performances of private services and mining and quarrying.

Poll: BPO firms' response to floods 'adequate'

By Aiza T. Globanstra

THE BUSINESS Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) said that most employees of the sector were unable to report for work last week due compared to previous flooding incidents.

"Because flooding last week was widespread and persistent unlike with previous storms such as Ondoy in 2009, BPAP firms reported an increase in the number of employees unable to report for work because of the weather conditions. The exact percentage of employees turnout, however, varies among companies and locations and is not yet clear," BPAP said.

It cited a poll conducted on member companies on their contingency plans and emergency assistance initiatives for employees as part of efforts to mitigate the impact of calamities.

BPAP said in a statement that an initial survey conducted late last week listed several initiatives, including monetary relief for affected employees consisting of interest-free loans. Disbursements per allowance, and outright grants. A large part of Luzon was inundated during the recent surge of monsoon rains. Metro Manila, which hosts hundreds of the country's BPO companies, was not spared.

Employees who cannot reach work were generally able to report for their colleagues, BPAP said. Other employees and their managers worked from home.

Throughout the crisis, despite some outages, electrical and communications infrastructure was stable. Employees who worked on Aug. 7 received a 50 percent premium on basic pay in compliance with a Dec. 2011 order from Department of Labor and Employment, BPAP said.

Pricewaterhouse Coopers Service Corporation Delivery Manila had to close their Ortigas office on Aug. 7 in consideration of employee turnout due to the bad weather. Its remaining days, however, the situation quickly improved. On Aug. 8, 50 per cent of the staff was able to go to work while employee attendance on Aug. 9 and 10 increased to 80 and 95 percent, respectively, BPAP said.

BPAP president and CEO Benedict Hernandez said most BPOPH continued to deliver services despite the reduced workforce and only "a handful" of BPOPH suspended operations for less than 24 hours.

"Even in those cases, critical service staffing was maintained," he said.

He said BPAP will continue to work closely with the government to ensure employee safety, enhance disaster preparedness, and mitigate service disruptions.

Global shares rise as Germany's Merkel remarks soothe nerves

TOKYO—Shares firmed on Friday as German Chancellor Angela Merkel waived support for the European Central Bank's efforts to contain the debt crisis in the euro zone, soothing investor nerves and prompting them to shift money to riskier assets.

Dartyen Board, senior strategist at Jih's iPad and iPhone, and the Galaxy Note 10.1 would be a "game changer" from rival tablets, on which users usually only view one application at a time.

The device can have two apps active on a split screen, while an "S Pen" stylus to make tablet and smart phones' sometimes clunky keyboard and input functions by allowing users to write and sketch on the screen.

Analysts, however, were skeptical of its ability to make inroads into Apple's huge lead in the tablet market given plans to price it at $499—the same as the iPad.

"When you look at the price and overall consumer awareness about featuring tablets, it's not likely to be a big success," said Dick Young, an analyst at Mizuho Investment & Securities in Seoul.

Samsung's cheaper and even smaller 8-inch tablet, which had similar features to the pricier Note, is also cheaper in the hand than the iPad and might not win buyers over if priced similarly to the Apple product.

"Couple this with an influx of low-priced Android tablets entering the market, Samsung will up by the Google Nexus 7's and Samsung may struggle to compete," he said in an e-mail to Reuters.

Reuters

Cheap phones outsmart Apple in China mart

SHANGHAI—In China's booming smartphone market, which is set this year to overtake the United States as the world's largest, a host of little-known local firms are armed with cheap phones to squeeze market share from US giant Apple Inc's iPhone.

In the latest local challenge to the iPhone, Xiaomi Technology on Thursday launched the successor to its popular M3 (M3) smartphone. The M2 has specifications that exceed those of the iPhone 4S and sells for less than half the price.

Smartphones from Xiaomi—founded only in June 2010—are but already worth more than Chinese market research co Marcus, according to private market valuations—have proved so popular they sell out in minutes after going on sale online.

The company, founded by CEO Lei Jun, has said it needs to first half revenue was on par to $1 billion as it sold more than 5 million phones.

Morsoning Apple's annual worldwide developers conference (WWDC), where devotees would pay to listen to Steve Jobs theorizing new products, the informally-clad Lei charged Xiaomi fans 199 yuan ($32.30) to attend the beijing launch, with the proceeds going to charity. Over 3,000 people flocked to the event.

While iPhone sales will increase in China, Apple's market share may stagnate or even slip as the market's changing dramatically, the iPhone flourishes is just a handful of wealthy Chinese elites, analysts said.

Industry researcher IDC estimates that in China last year smartphones costing less than $200 made up 58 percent of shipments, while devices costing $500 and more accounted for 11 percent of the market.

"The sweet spot of affordability in China is $101.1,500 yuan ($100-$150)," said Michael Chudzicki, managing director of Shanghai-based consultancy BeiTech Advisors. "The 'Lao Bai Xing,' or man in the street, is going to go for those mid-tier phones."

Reuters

FACEBOOK'S stock plunged to a new low Thursday to an all-time low of $17.65 after the expiration of a ban that had prevented some early investors and insiders from dumping millions of additional shares deep into the social-networking leader.

Facebook hits new record closing low

SAN FRANCISCO—Facebook Inc shares sank 6.2 percent to a record closing low after early investors got the go-ahead to sell for the first time since the Inc. 1 social network went public, starting a string of insider lockup expirations that will pressure the stock for months.

More than 270 million shares owned by early investors became available for trade on Thursday after a 3-month ban on sales ended. That's more than half the 421 million shares sold in its initial public offering on May 18.

The company is banking by Wall Street in the hatred from those months because the only US company to debut with a market value of more than $100 billion.

But investors have since grown disillusioned with Facebook's inability to generate sales in recent slowing revenue growth—due in large part to its limited mobile advertising efforts —sending the stock down almost 30 percent from its $38 debut.

Many investors remain concerned by the massive flood of shares still soaring to be released. More than 1.4 billion additional shares will be eligible for selling by year's end, nearly tripling the amount available for trade.

Analysts say Thursday's initial selling reflect a sense of strategic insiders in November, when many of the social net work's employees get to cash in stock awards for the first time.

"An incredible amount, all the shares coming," said Steve Eisenberg, president of Northstar Capital Investment and portfolio manager for Internodes Growth Partners, a hedge fund.

"It's important because it adds to the negative sentiment.

You've got a big overhang of stock, you've got decelerating growth, ... everybody's not there's more to sell of more upside," Mike Wahl, the company's chief financial officer, said in an interview with Reuters.

Facebook's IPO was to have been the culmination of years of breakneck growth that established it as the biggest in street social network with a billion users, challenging Google for the dominant time and ad revenue dollars.

Instead, it has been a disaster from the start, with technical glitches delaying the debut and the company slashing its revenue forecast just days before the IPO.

Reuters

US data point to weak growth in economy

Jobless claims up 2,000 in latest week

WASHINGTON—A trend measure of Americans signing up for new jobless benefits fell close to a four-year low last week, but weakness in a regional factory gauge showed the US recovery still faces stop-and-go ebb.

Other data on Thursday gave mixed signals about the strength of the housing recovery with groundbreaking on new homes falling slightly in July but building permits rising.

Taken together, the data reinforced the view that economic growth might pick up in the second half but would still be lackluster.

Growth softening was disappointing in the spring and expectations that the Federal Reserve could unleash more economic stimulus have grown, although the Fed head of motion next month meeting may be dimming.

For the Fed, the issue was whether the economy was sliding toward the abyss and it doesn't seem to be. But it's certainly not improving," said Chris Ellis, an economist at Deutsche Bank in New York.

The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank said its business activity index, which measures activity at factories in the mid-Atlantic region, was at minus 7.1 in August. Any reading below zero indicates a contraction in manufacturing in eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

The report offers an early sign of the health of US manufacturing. A second reading will cated the sector shrank in June and July.

Still, the Philadelphia Fed's report showed a smaller contraction in August than in July which economists said took some of the edge off the bad news. Paul Ashworth analysis more expecting a touchup to 0.8 in.

The dollar hit a one month high against the

Visa prepares to enter Myanmar

NEW YORK—The credit card debit payments company Visa is preparing to enter the Myanmar market and has assisted training local bank workers on how to use electronic transfer systems, a report said Friday, according to Reuters.

The end of the influx of international sanctions following the easing of some international sanctions on Myanmar had created new business opportunities and demand for customers who once but want to carry cash.

Peter Mather, Visa Group country manager for Southeast Asia and Australasia, told the Wall Street Journal that its initial efforts would focus on creating a network of automated teller machines and electronic payment terminals.

"That is where we will focus first," he said.

Myanmar's economy is cash dominated and visitors usually need to copy themselves with bundles of hard currency.

Although Visa has not opened an office in Myanmar the country formerly known as Burma, it will partner with local banks and continue training workshops in the coming months, the report said. It has already held one such two-day event.

"The reason we deliver electronic payments, the whole Myanmar economy will benefit from the increased spending," Mather told the newspaper.

Myanmar President Thein Sein has overseen a series of dramatic reforms since taking office last year, including the release of political prisoners and the election of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi to parliament.

US President Barack Obama has since eased restrictions on Myanmar in hopes of encouraging further reform. On July 11, he gave approval to US companies to invest in Myanmar and partner with its commercial state oil and gas company.

But earlier this month US lawmakers voiced concern that the country was slipping from Myanmar moving to maintain pressure while acknowledging the early stages of the country's exit from fifty Reuters/AP

Samsung launches new Galaxy tablet

SEOUL/LONDON—Samsung Electronics launched its new Galaxy Note tablet in three major markets on Thursday, hoping that a stylus-type pen and split-screen functions will stand the new device apart from rival Apple Inc's iPad.

The company, facing accusations that it copied the design and some features of Apple's iPad and iPhone, said the Galaxy Note 10.1 would be a "game changer" from rival tablets, on which users usually only view one application at a time.

The device can have two apps active on a split screen, while an "S Pen" stylus to make tablet and smart phones' sometimes clunky keyboard and input functions by allowing users to write and sketch on the screen.

Analysts, however, were skeptical of its ability to make inroads into Apple's huge lead in the tablet market given plans to price it at $499—the same as the iPad.

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"Couple this with an influx of low-priced Android tablets entering the market, Samsung will up by the Google Nexus 7's and Samsung may struggle to compete," he said in an e-mail to Reuters.

Reuters

Heineken, F&N in talks over Tiger brewer bid

SINGAPORE—Heineken NV is negotiating with Fraser and Neave (F&N) about raising its $6 billion bid for full control of the maker of Tiger beer and breweries in 14 countries as it fights against a Thai billionaire for its Southeast Asia.

A revised offer for Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) by Heineken, the world's third-largest brewer, could be up to 10 percent higher than its rival's bid and may be conditional on Singapore's F&N not accepting a partial Thai bid, sources with direct knowledge of the talks told Reuters.

"It is definitely a higher price," said one of the sources, declining to be identified because the talks are confidential.

Two sources said the Dutch brewer, which owns an 8% stake in APB, could give greater value to all 40% shareholders, may simply match a partial offer by the Thai group of $$55 per 40% share.

An F&N spokesperson declined to comment. Heineken was not immediately available to comment.

Control of APB is vital for Heineken, which had offered $$50 per share for the 58 percent it does not already own. That includes the 40 percent of APB held by its long-time partner F&N, a drinks and property conglomerate.

But Heineken's efforts have been complicated by Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, Thailand's second-richest man, as he seeks to expand his Thai Beverage empire in the fast-growing Southeast Asian region.

Thaibev recently became F&N's largest shareholder with 26.4 percent. Charoen's son-in-law, through his group Kimberly Place, separately offered to buy F&N's direct 7.3 percent stake in APB at $$55 per share.

"Heineken's resolve to win 40% seems to be very strong," said Andrew Chew, head of research at UOB Kay Hian in Singapore.

"APB has an extensive distribution network and breweries.

Tiger Brand is also strong in Asia. At $$55, it's already not that cheap, but I suppose it is the kind of situation they can probably extract more."

The Thais have said they want to work with Heineken, but sources close to the situation say it would not be keen to cooperate with a competitor.

APB is seen as a very attractive business with nearly 20 percent annual earnings growth over the last decade.

The biggest brand APB brews is

HEINEKEN is the world's third-largest brewer.

Heineken itself, accounting for 30 percent of its volumes, has also shown Tiger, Bintang and Anchor and runs 10 breweries in countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

Among Southeast Asian brewers, APB is the sixth-largest in terms of volumes in the region. Fourth- regional, behind San Miguel Corp of the Philippines in number one spot and Thaibev in fourth, according to Euromonitor's latest data for 2011.

Trading of APB and F&N shares in Singapore was suspended on Friday pending an announcement by F&N.

Heineken has said it offer was a 45 percent premium to the price of APB shares a month earlier and the F&N board had agreed to recommend the bid to its shareholders.

"Heineken wants full control of Asia Pacific Breweries, while Charoen wants a piece of that growth and is positioning himself to gain handsomely if Heineken wants to buy him out in the future," said an investment banking source in London.

The APB shares jumped more under $$55 to mid-July before stake building began to $$60.57 as of Thursday's close. F&N shares, meanwhile, have risen from $$7.40 since mid-July to end at $$8.40 on Thursday. Both have hit record highs in recent weeks.

Japanese brewer Kirin, which owns about 15 percent of F&N, has not indicated whether it is agreeable to the sale of the 40% stake. But Kirin president Senji Miyake has said his group was focused on F&N's soft drinks business and was not thinking about doing anything with APB.

The Heineken deal could prompt a breakup of F&N with Coca-Cola buying an eye on its popular soft drink 100PLUS. Dut juice, instant noodles and dairy products unit, which could be bought off from the Singapore group's property assets.

Goldman Sachs is advising F&N, while Citigroup and Credit Suisse are advisers to Heineken. Morgan Stanley and HSBC are advising the Thais.

Reuters

BUSINESS

LEO BURNETT MANILA IS BEST MANAGED AD AGENCY

Leo Burnett Manila was recognized with the Best in Management of Business award at the recent Agency of the Year ceremonies presented by 3Sc Philippines. Leo Burnett was honored not only for its significant growth and profitability, but also for its sustainable model that helps build all of its clients' brands. Guided by its humanistic philosophy, Leo Burnett Manila continues to perfect newer marketing disruptions such as digital and shopper marketing to provide ever-more solutions for its clients. Photo shows Leo Burnett Manila's Managing Director Raymond Amadra (3rd from left) with executives Cielo Roldan, Pax Pelly, Gela Peña, Sue Ann Gobio and JJ Cobos, who presented the award.

PH, Singapore air negotiations stalled

Power Situation Outlook
for Saturday, 18 August 2012

	June	Reserve	Minimum
Luzon Grid (MW)	7,883	1,788	1,171
Visayas (MW)	2,223	1,382	1,150
Mindanao (MW)	1,158	464	12

Talks to resume after 6 months

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENTS of the Philippines and Singapore failed to reach a new deal this week on increase flights between the two countries amid rising demand due to surging regional tourism.

Following two days of negotiations this week, air panels from both countries instead agreed to resume negotiations on fresh flight entitlements for passenger and cargo traffic after six months.

"The parties could not agree on the outstanding issues for now," Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla said yesterday.

The CAB heads the Philippine air panel, which is made up of representatives from the departments of tourism, foreign affairs, and transportation and communications.

Negotiations between the host air panel and 41 Singaporean counterpart were held in Manila from Wednesday to Thursday.

The Philippines wants to boost air travel with 10 priority countries, including Singapore, by the top of the DOTC's priority list are South Asian neighbor South Korea, Japan and China. The next five on the list are Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Myanmar and Brazil.

South Korea, the United States, China and Japan are the biggest sources of tourists visiting the Philippines. Earlier, the Philippine air panel signed a new bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) with Seoul, increasing flights between South Korea and the Philippines by 30 percent.

The DOTC earlier said countries on the priority list might not necessarily be the biggest markets for the country's airlines. The main factor would be the potential for growth.

Bilateral negotiations with other countries are part of the administration's strategy to boost the country's tourism industry.

The Aquino administration wants to triple tourist arrivals in the Philippines to 10 million by 2016 from 3 million in 2010. The tourism department said the country was on track to reaching 4.6 million tourists by year's end.

DTI pushes automation of permits, licensing

By Ben T. Chicandra

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry (DTI) is pushing stakeholders to go for the automation, not just the streamlining, of the government's business permits and licensing systems (BPLS).

"We are confident to say that we have made considerable headway in BPLS implementation. But we are not stopping there. We want to see local governments undertake up to the next level from APEC-level BPLS," Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo said in a statement.

As of June 30, 748 local governments units (LGUs) have streamlined their BPLS. Out of these LGUs, 421 of the 480 target LGUs were included in the program. The remaining 327 LGUs were not part of the set target, according to DTI documents.

"This is part of the continuing process to improve the business environment and make it easier for our constituents and citizens to transact with the government," Domingo said.

The BPLS reduces the number of steps, application forms and signatories needed to business permit applications to encourage small and micro enterprises and those within the informal economy to register. Doing so, Domingo said, would give them legal protection and enjoy the privileges accompanied it.

In a separate report, the DTI said small and micro enterprises (sie) employed 61.2 percent of the workforce and contributed 35.7 percent of the total value added in the manufacturing industry. The size of the small and micro enterprise sector gave leverage to push for a competitive Philippines and to wage the drive to ease doing business unfailingly, DTI said.

Early this year, the DTI and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) maintained a joint BPLS Week (May 6to 10) to push, which consolidated the revised number of steps (DILG). By 2016, the target LGUs to comply with BPLS standards was set at 1,634 cities and municipalities. The increase in target was in compliance with President Aquino's instruction to expand the coverage of the BPLS program.

The DTI and the DILG invoked the various administrative orders (AOs) issued by the country in April 2010 and issued a joint circular on the guidelines to implement the standards in processing business permits and licenses in cities and municipalities.

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PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Project Name	Drilling Rig Mobilization Services Policy for PNOC EC Employees
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00), inclusive of all applicable taxes and other charges
Project Duration	One (1) year upon receipt of Notice to Proceed
Coverage	PNOC EC Employees and Rights dependents

Prospective bidders should have completed within the period for 10 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project, the value of which, adjusted to current prices using the National Statistics Office consumer price index, must be at least equivalent to the ABC in the following: Goods and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"; Bidding documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (www.philgeps.gov.ph) and PNOC EC's website (www.pnoc.ec.com.ph), provided that bidders shall pay for the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

For further information, please contact:

PNOC EC Procurement Section
c/o Ms. Sandra T. Bantayan or Ms. Cleo Anne G. Cayetano
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Blue Wave, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Tel. No.: (02) 478-0046 or 840-1918 Fax: (02) 840-1918
Email: procurement@pnoc.ec.com.ph

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. PNOC EC also reserves the right to waive any informality or deficiency in a bid and to accept the bid which in its judgment is most advantageous to the Government of the Philippines.

(SGD.)
ENRIQUE C. SOMINGO
Chairman

16 August 2012

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16 August 2012

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT MANAGER

Leads the development, execution and evaluation of the foundation's research and knowledge management agenda and programs, communication and publication and policy and advocacy integration.

A bachelor's degree and at least five years of experience in similar jobs required. Knowledge must be proficient in knowledge management, policy development and evaluation, research and development and communications and publication.

ADVOCACY MANAGER

Leads the development, execution and evaluation of the Foundation's advocacy agenda and programs.

Candidates must have a bachelor's degree and at least seven years experience in media, public relations or marketing. Candidates should be proficient in policy development and evaluation, communication and publication.

FINANCE OFFICER

Ensures that policies and procedures in finance, budgeting, audit and administrative are installed and promulgated, complied with. Directs responsibilities include financial policy/systems development and management reporting, fund investments and monitoring, financial and budget management, financial analysis and accounting (advice), compliance and staff supervision.

Candidates should be certified public accountants with at least five (5) years related work experience. They should be proficient in financial management (i.e., financial accounting, investment accounting, taxation, budget preparation and analysis).

HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Responsible for recruiting/hiring policies and procedures and implementation in the major areas of human resources and HRD. The individual performs position analysis; (1) Recruitment; (2) Compensation and Benefits Administration; (3) Training and Development; (4) Performance Management; (5) Job Design/Evaluation; and (6) Organization Development. (e) Administrative Support Services/Office Management.

Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in related fields (such as human resource management, labor management, or psychology) with at least five (5) years experience in similar positions. They should be proficient in human resource and administrative support services, office management.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (SEDS) SPECIALIST

Assist the SEDS Officer in industry scanning, opportunity spotting, and management support and implementation of projects.

Candidates should have a bachelor's degree with at least three (3) years experience in similar positions. They should be proficient in project/program management, business modeling, networking, and advocacy.

Successful candidates can look forward to both the challenge and the satisfaction of contributing to program activities that meaningfully address poverty and marginalization in the country. In addition, they will receive a competitive compensation package that is considered a benchmark in the NGO community.

Interested applicants may send in their updated resumes, detailing qualifications, training, and experience) relevant to the positions applied for until August 27, 2012. Send all materials to: hrad@pwf.ph

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BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), shall conduct a yearly pre-selection of appraisal companies for the regular requisition and appraisal requirements of Asset Management Department (AMD), Department of Loans and Credit (DLC) and Provident Fund Office (PFO) and other departments/offices which have properties for appraisal.

The following criteria must be met by the appraisal company for accreditation purposes:

1. Must have a networth of at least P4.0 Million as of 31 December 2011;
2. Must be profitable for the last two (2) years; and
3. The President or the Chief Operating Officer of the appraisal company or the Manager in charge of appraisal work must be a duly licensed Real Estate Appraiser by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

The list of eligibility requirements will be available only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on 07 September 2012, 9:30 a.m., MRSA, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila.

Please submit the eligibility documents to the BAC, Room MR3A, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and F. Orampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than 19 September 2012, 2:00 p.m.

Only those who will be found eligible shall be invited to participate in the biddings for the regular inspection and appraisal requirements of BSP.

The provisions of the Republic Act No. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of Contract shall apply.

The BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the supplier for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of its eligibility documents.

ENRIQUE C. SOMINGO
Chairman

16 August 2012

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT - PHILIPPINES

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES/ENGAGEMENT OF ONE (1) FACILITATOR FOR THE KALAHI-CIDSS EVALUATION FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

MCA-P/REOI/413000

August 14, 2012

1. This Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) that appeared in DgMarket, UNDB Online and was posted on the MCAP web site www.mca.gov.ph on April 16, 2012. The Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines (MCAP) invites qualified and experienced individual consultants to provide the consultancy services as detailed on Annex 1/ Terms of Reference. See http://www.mca.gov.ph/procurement/bid-invitation.php for the subject procurement (MCAP-413000).
2. MCA-P shall evaluate the CVs based on qualifications and experience and negotiate with the top-ranked candidate. The Standard Expression of Interest and CV forms are however provided. Only the Expression of Interest and the CVs of individual consultants are required to be submitted.
3. Given the scope of work, individuals who are expected to participate in this undertaking should possess the following qualifications:
   a. Holder of University Degree in Economics, Public Management/Administration, Statistics or any other related fields;
   b. At least five (5) years of proven experience in design, facilitation and managing training programs, workshops, conferences, meetings and seminars involving multi-sectoral participants, such as, but not limited to, government personnel, international development organizations and civil society organizations using participatory approaches using the criteria of impact, transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation; and
   c. With strong background in the areas of poverty reduction and community-driven development projects.
4. Consultants must submit their Expressions of Interest and CVs by e-mail, hard copy or speed/courier service, following the standard forms as provided, to the address below by 5:00 PM Philippine time on **August 31, 2012.**

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Attention: Eleanor Estrellado-Sin
Deputy Managing Director, Finance and Administration
c/o Procurement Agent
Attention: Procurement Agent Manager
3rd Floor, Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
Email: procurement.agent@philippines.mca.com

Yours sincerely,
For Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines

(Sgd.) ELEANOR ESTRELLADO-SIN
Deputy Managing Director
Finance and Administration

ACDI/VOCA

Expanding Opportunities Worldwide

Since 1963, ACDI/VOCA has empowered people in 146 developing and transitional nations to succeed in the global economy. ACDI/VOCA currently has an approximate of 80 projects in 40 countries and revenues of $140 million. We are seeking candidates for **Technical Specialists** for an anticipated multiyear maternal and child health program in Philippines. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations in the Philippines to deliver a comprehensive package of reproductive health and preventive maternal and child health services in Mindanao. The project will be based in Mindanao and these positions are contingent on ACDI/VOCA being awarded the program.

Anticipated positions include: Chief of Party, Family Planning/Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (FP/MNCHN) Specialist, Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Specialist, Training Manager, Finance Manager.

Qualifications: All candidates should be fluent in English, Tagalog, Visayan or other languages spoken in Mindanao. Experience working in conflict/post-conflict environments is strongly preferred.

Chief of Party:

- Master's degree in public health, nutrition, medicine (M.D.), social sciences, or a related field is required.
- Minimum of 10 years as chief of party on projects of at least $10 million and at least three years of experience managing health/nutrition programs.
- Familiarity with the Philippine health system and local culture is required; previous program management in the Philippines is strongly preferred.

Family Planning/Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (FP/MNCHN) Specialist:

- Advanced degree (at least master's level) in public health, medicine (M.D.), social sciences (such as medical anthropology), or other fields related to the concerns of the project.
- Demonstrated understanding and familiarity with issues faced by health workers involved in the provision of FP/MNCHN services, in either the public or the private sectors.

Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Specialist:

- Demonstrated understanding and familiarity with development communications issues and solutions, especially in public health.
- Demonstrated experience providing technical assistance to behavior change communications projects, with emphasis on US government funded health programs in the region.

Training Manager

- At least 10 years of experience working on public health projects, with experience designing and conducting training activities.
- Demonstrated experience developing and delivering trainer curricula for Training of Trainers and technicians.

Finance Manager

- Strong accounting knowledge; USAID project experience preferred.
- Minimum five years professional experience working in financial management, procurement and grants management experience useful. Experience working with QuickBooks preferred.

To be considered for this recruitment, please submit a resume to **Philippines@Villanova.org** by August 20. Please write the position for which you are applying in the email subject line. No phone calls please. Only finalists will be contacted. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. EOE.

All applications must be received by August 20, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Cotabato City

جمهورية الفلبين
وزارة التربية والتعليم
مدينة كوتاباتو

Project No. PHILIPPINES-2012-ICB-NFMM

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Pesos: Ninety Two Million Three Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety and 00/100 (PHP 92,392,690.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to eligible payments under the contracts for the **Supply and Delivery (Barangay Level) of Armchairs and Teacher's Tables and Chairs to Various Public Elementary and Secondary Schools Nationwide Under the 70% & 30% Funds** as follows:

D-12012 SCHOOL FURNITURE

Lot/Bid No.	Description	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)		Estimated Unit Cost (ABC)	Delivery Period	Unit Cost per Bid Document
			70% MOOE	30% Funds (Trainer's Fee)			
1	Armchair	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
2	Armchair	[illegible]	2244	100	2,244,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
3	Armchair with Arm R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
4	Armchair with Arm L	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
5	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
6	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
7	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
8	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
9	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
10	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
11	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
12	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
13	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
14	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
15	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
16	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
17	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
18	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
19	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
20	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
21	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
22	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
23	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
24	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
25	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
26	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
27	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
28	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
29	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
30	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
31	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
32	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
33	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
34	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
35	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
36	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
37	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
38	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
39	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
40	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
41	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
42	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
43	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
44	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
45	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
46	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
47	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
48	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
49	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
50	Armchair with Arm L-R	[illegible]	1000	100	1,000,000.00	1.00	1,000.00

Fire Used Contract implementing Unit: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED)
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Cotabato City

Source of Funds: General Appropriations Act (Batch CY 2012)

The Department of Education ARMM Region, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is now inviting bids for the above-mentioned projects. Bids received that exceed the ABC per cluster shall be rejected at bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bidder must not be allowed to a cluster otherwise, the bid shall be rejected. Bidder may bid for one, more than one or all of the clusters. Evaluation and award shall be made on a per cluster basis. Prospective bidders must have completed a similar contract within the last five (5) years from the deadline date of submission and receipt of bids with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens / sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to commonwealth Act 138.

Open competitive bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criterion, evaluation and post-qualification procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184. Otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the address given below and inspect the Bid documents in the aforementioned.

Activities	Dates & Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	August 20, 2012	Regional ARMM Region, DepEd Compound, Cotabato City
Pre-Bid Conference	August 23, 2012	DepEd Conference Hall, DepEd Compound, Cotabato City
Submission & Opening of Bids	September 3, 2012	DepEd Conference Hall, DepEd Compound, Cotabato City
Declaration of LCB	August 30-31, 2012	DepEd ARMM Region, DepEd Compound, Cotabato City

A complete set of Bid Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bid Documents on August 20 – September 3, 2012.

Prospective or Authorized Managing Officer (AMO) shall personally submit their Letter of Intent to the BAC Secretariat upon presentation of the original copy of Registration certificate from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for sole proprietorship, or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) for cooperatives, or any proof of such registration and valid identification card prior to issuance and submission of bid documents. The acquisition of at least three (3) bidder sets is required. The Office of Regional Secretary of ARMM reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

www.armm.gov.ph & www.philgeps.com

MICHAEL I. SINAMBO
BAC Secretariat
DepEd ARMM Region
Cotabato City
(064) Compound, Cotabato City
Contact Numbers: 064-421-0067

Atty. MACALINDOL SALIDON
Chairman, BAC

ANNOUNCEMENT

To our Valued Clients,

Please be informed that **only** our Makati and Pasig branches will be open on **August 20 & 21, 2012.**

For your advertising needs, please call **8974000** local **506** or **8810442.**

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office/ Makati Branch
Trunkline 897-4000
loc. 514, 515 & 243
Telefax: 897-8803 • 899-8477

Alabang/Provincial Branch
553-7345 • 553-734
Telefax: 553-5348

Cubao, Quezon City Branch
421-0342 • 421-1433
Telefax: 912-8093

Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City Branch
631-0492 • 234-4039
Telefax: 695-3043

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Trunkline 525-5070
loc. 115 or 116
Telefax: 528-0213

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Pototan, Iloilo

INVITATION TO BID

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ILOCO, II) invites all interested parties to join the public bidding of the following items:

1. Distribution Line Hardwares
2. Streetlights (Light and Heavy Duty)
3. Steel and Concrete Poles
4. Conductors and Wires
5. 15 kV Switchgear, Fuses, & Fixtures

The schedule of Pre-Bidding will be on August 24, 2012, 1:30 p.m. at Iloilo Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ILORECO I), Brgy. Cauayan, Pototan, Iloilo.

Bid Documents may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Committee upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. For more information, please contact Mr. Fernando L. Lasalde, PEAC, Chairman of Pre-Bid at 09.07.318.9017 or Tel. Nos. +(033) 529-9805, 529-9802, 529-9901.

ILOCO II MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITIES THEREIN AND ACCEPTS BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) JOSE REMANDO ERIC S. ROQUIOS
General Manager

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 067 Maligaya St.,
Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
S.M.I TRADING CO., INC. 1734-A, Matimo cor. Mariano Sts., Malate, Manila	Jasveer Kaur Indian	Marketing Manager
SUDAMARKUL TRADING CORP. 1239 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila	Ramesh Kumar Indian	Sales Manager
SUDAMARKUL TRADING CORP. 1236 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila	Mohan Lal Indian	General Manager
BABA BALA JI MERCHANDISING & TRADING CORP. Rm. 214 Midland Plaza Hotel M. Adriatico St. Ermita, Manila	Jaswinder Singh Indian	Operations Manager
BABA BALA JI MERCHANDISING & TRADING CORP. Rm. 214 Midland Plaza Hotel M. Adriatico St. Ermita, Manila	Ramvaideep Kaur Indian	Sales Manager
BABA NOORSHAH BALI GEN. MDSE. CORP. 2433 J. Reyes St., Pandacan, Manila	Parmjeet Kaur Indian	Supervisor
BABA NOORSHAH BALI GEN. MDSE. CORP. 2433 J. Reyes St., Pandacan, Manila	Sandeep Kaur Indian	Purchasing Manager
C-E CHEVO OIL MFG. CORP. 175 Sto. Cristobal St., Caloocan City	Dachi Qiu Chinese	Assistant Technician
PHILKO UBINS LTD. CORP. #68 A-San Rafael St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Haeyun Yang Korean	President
ECLIPSE SERVICENTER.COM INC. Room 218 Peninsula Court Bldg., 8735 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Seung Chul Lee Korean	General Manager
SEOL AUTO SERVICES, CORP. Room 202 3/F JKL Bldg., 1099 Gen. Luna St., cor. San Pedro St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Lansaze Park Korean	Assistant Marketing Manager
TOWER CLUB, INC. Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Wing Ki Chai Chinese	Executive Chef – Chinese
EPISODE ACOUSTIC BAR 648 Remedios St., Peter I. Guanzon City	Won Jong Yun Korean	Bar Manager
ONE ZONE ASIA PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Ariel Slated Corporate Center, 3 Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Lee-reeves Russell British	Electrical Engineering Manager
ALL UP MEDIA INCORPORATED UNIT 10F Peninsula Court, 8735 Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Joseph Rudolph Klack American	Chairman
DANGREMI CAPITAL LIMITED 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Lucia Purnama Asi Indonesian	Bahasa Indonesia-language Customer Service Officer
DARLEIGH CAPITAL LIMITED 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Lie Sie Bank Maharaneee	Mahraneee-language Customer Service Officer
GEOPACIFIC INC. Unit 24B Citylend Data Ross Condominium, 7848 Data Ross St., Pio del Pilar St., Makati City	Rosin Rahda Devada Indian	Senior Operator
GEOPACIFIC INC. Unit 24B Citylend Data Ross Condominium, 7848 Data Ross St., Pio del Pilar St., Makati City	Dimple Dennis Ramos Indian	Process Leader – Operations
FIRSTSOURCE SOLUTIONS LIMITED GF Pinnacenes Bldg., Plaza dC/Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sreejith Sreedharan Nair Indian	Process Leader – Operations
GEOPACIFIC INC. Unit 24B Citylend Data Ross Condominium, 7848 Data Ross St., Pio del Pilar St., Makati City	Venayya Naidu Gella Indian	Senior Operator – Dredge
GEOPACIFIC INC. Unit 24B Citylend Data Ross Condominium, 7848 Data Ross St., Pio del Pilar St., Makati City	Sivaramakrishna Moyangadi Indian	Mechanical Supervisor
PINERVIER RESOURCES CORP. Unit 1308 Trade and Financial Tower, 32nd St. cor. 7th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jaeyoon Han Korean	Field Manager
FLUOR (MANIL) INC. – PHILIPPINES 9/F Ayala Star Bldg., 2452-2604 ASEAN Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Brian Edward Polley British	Principal Design Engineering Specialist
ACCENTURE INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Umesh Bangalore Jayshree Indian	Systems Analyst

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
BANCA CAPITAL CORPORATION Unit 6B, 2/F Delmar Bldg., LTA Avenue, Pasay, Manila	Hank Fong Andy Lui Chinese	General Manager
FLUOR (MANIL) INC. – PHILIPPINES 9/F Ayala Star Bldg., 2452-2604 ASEAN Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Gregory Gibson Myers American	Principal Design Engineer
CONVERGYS PHILIPPINES SERVICE CORPORATION Convergys One Bldg., 6780 Ayala Ave. cor. Salcedo St., Makati City	Jeffrey Mark Reno American	San Lazaro Site Leader
EXCELLENT FORCE CORP. Unit 3-PG Greenbelt Parkplace Condo., 112 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Lakhvir Singh Indian	Collecting Officer
NEW RICE CONVENIENCE BINIBINAYI, INC. #37 Mahatma St., Central 4, Diliman, Quezon City	Seong Sik Lee (aka of LEE) Korean	Marketing Manager
INFOSYS BPO LIMITED – PHILIPPINE BRANCH 3/F Trade Hall, Market Market, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Narkula Raghavan Sarathy Indian	Senior Associate – Business Consulting
BADA KAAN (SAAS TRADING CORP. 1382 Junior Bldg., Makati St., Brgy. 868, Zone 072, Ermita, Manila City	Bhanot Bhushan Indian	Assistant Sales Manager
INFOSYS BPO LIMITED – PHILIPPINE BRANCH 3/F Trade Hall, Market Market, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Ramesh Kumar Devdutt Indian	Senior Associate – Finance
NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES Power Center, Quezon Avenue cor. BIR Rd., Diliman, Quezon City	Rongchun Yu Chinese	Advisor – Office of General Counsel
SALIB KALAN TRADING CORP. #35-B Grakstad St., Sampaloc, Manila	Kulwant Singh Indian	Sales Representative
NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES Power Center, Quezon Avenue cor. BIR Rd., Diliman, Quezon City	Wang Dayong Chinese	Deputy Chief Staff – Office of Chief Technical Officer
GEOPACIFIC INC. Unit 24B Citylend Data Ross Condominium, 7848 Data Ross St., Pio del Pilar St., Makati City	Narrisetanemeru Pattabedi Indian	Engine Room Fitter
NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES Power Center, Quezon Avenue cor. BIR Rd., Diliman, Quezon City	Lin Yong Chinese	Deputy Department Head – Luzon System Operations
GEOPACIFIC INC. Unit 24B Citylend Data Ross Condominium, 7848 Data Ross St., Pio del Pilar St., Makati City	Mandi Naidu Adigarla Indian	Operator – Dredger
PHILIPPINE-JIN-JIANG GENERAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Rm. 901-904 Federal Tower, Osmeña Hwy., Brgy. Bangkal, Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Zhihu Wang Chinese	Chinese Language Instructor (Mandarin)
DARLEIGH CAPITAL LIMITED 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sothara Dak Cambodian	Cambodian-language Customer Service Officer
GEOPACIFIC INC. Unit 24B Citylend Data Ross Condominium, 7848 Data Ross St., Pio del Pilar St., Makati City	Bibin Buddy Bunakanti Indian	Purchase Manager
PHILIPPINE-JIN-JIANG GENERAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Rm. 901-904 Federal Tower, Osmeña Hwy., Brgy. Bangkal, Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Wenyong Lu Chinese	Chinese Language Instructor (Mandarin)
SW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Duong Nam Giang Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
DARLEIGH CAPITAL LIMITED 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shuai Song Chinese	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
SW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Bui Son Do Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
PHILIPPINE-JIN-JIANG GENERAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Rm. 901-904 Federal Tower, Osmeña Hwy., Brgy. Bangkal, Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Jingbing Li Chinese	Chinese Language Instructor (Mandarin)

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
DARLEIGH CAPITAL LIMITED 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sreehari Latha Indian	Indian-language Customer Service Officer
SW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tang Ada Kah Malaysian	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
PHILIPPINE-JIN-JIANG GENERAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Rm. 901-904 Federal Tower, Osmeña Hwy., Brgy. Bangkal, Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Tibuli Li Chinese	Chinese Language Instructor (Mandarin)
PHILIPPINE-JIN-JIANG GENERAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Rm. 901-904 Federal Tower, Osmeña Hwy., Brgy. Bangkal, Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Binbin Yao Chinese	Chinese Language Instructor (Mandarin)
DARLEIGH CAPITAL LIMITED 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jiaren Xu Chinese	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
SW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tony Kiem Indonesian	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
SW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Phon An Tang Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
SUSECO PC CORP. 123 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Kyung Soo Bae Korean	President and General Manager
PHILIPPINE-JIN-JIANG GENERAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Rm. 901-904 Federal Tower, Osmeña Hwy., Brgy. Bangkal, Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Yulin Song Chinese	Chinese Language Instructor (Mandarin)
SW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shu Pi-ying Lenny Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
PHILIPPINE-JIN-JIANG GENERAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Room 901-904 Federal Tower, Osmeña Hwy., Brgy. Bangkal, Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Shuaishi Huang Chinese	Chinese Language Instructor (Mandarin)
SW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Boi Nhu Khang Vietnamese	Bilingual Speaking Data Analyst Officer
PBC INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. Suite 3905 Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Kenneth Kai Cheng American	General Manager and Treasurer
TAKPAK TRADING CORP. 1508 Trinity Building T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila	Narinderjit Singh Bhullard Indian	Sales Manager
FORUM ENERGY PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 16/F Pearlbank Centre, 146 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Andrew James Mullins British	Executive Director
BATHINDA TRADING CORP. 207 Doña de Hierba, Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City	Sukhdip Kaur Indian	Purchasing Manager
TAKPAK TRADING CORP. 1508 Trinity Building T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila	Amandeep Kaur Indian	Purchasing Manager
BATHINDA TRADING CORP. 207 Doña de Hierba, Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City	Simarjit Kaur Bakhsh Indian	General Manager
S.M.I TRADING CO., INC. 1734-A, Matimco cor. Mariano Sts., Malate, Manila	Jaswinder Singh Bili Indian	Sales Manager
PHILSON INTERNATIONAL (HONG KONG) CARE LTD. 14/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Sarah Bashgeer Israeli	Quality Expert
DARLEIGH CAPITAL LIMITED 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kesaengpol Jaengkajang Thai	Thai-language Customer Service Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN M. MACATANGAY, CESO III
Regional Director

DepED

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Bids and Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. The Department of Education Procurement Unit (DepEd Procurement Unit) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to engage a reputable consultant for the DepED Education Development Project (EDDP) Procurement Activities Monitoring Project. Eligible Filipino and foreign consultants which meet the qualifications required by the Government of the Philippines and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) may submit their expression of interest (EOI) on or before August 28, 2012 to the Bids and Awards Committee 2, 5th Floor Executive Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Eligibility documents and other information may also be submitted to www.deped.gov.ph or www.adb.org or call DepED Procurement Service at telephone (632) 638-5992 local 302 or (632) 636-4824. Qualifications for eligibility will be considered based on a non-discriminatory "shortlist" criterion.

2. The BAC shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents which have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The shortlist shall consist of two (2) to seven (7) consultants and will be drawn up not later than [illegible].

3. Interested parties may obtain further information, clarifications, or representations of [illegible] between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) procedure. The consultant shall submit a [illegible] for the evaluation of bids/proposals provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

5. The contract shall be awarded to the consultant which submitted bid which is both responsive and compliant with the bidding documents.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Venue
Issuance of Eligibility Documents	August 20, 2012 (8:00 a.m.) BAC Secretariat, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 28, 2012, 2:00 p.m. BAC Conference Room, 4th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Approval of Short-listed Consultants	September 3-4, 2012
Results of Eligibility Check and Short-listing	September 5, 2012
Issuance of the Invitation to Short-listed Consultants	September 10, 2012
Pre-Bid Conference	September 20, 2012, 2:00 p.m. 4th Floor Executive Room, 4th Floor Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Last Opening/Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals	October 1, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Bidders to be informed later, Interim Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

6. The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any formality in any bid/s and accept the one which is most advantageous to the Government. DepED assumes no obligation whatsoever for expenses that may be incurred by the proponent in the preparation of their proposal nor does it recognize the principle of "no award not no match."

For more information, please refer to:

[illegible]
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION AND TO BID

1. The Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OMECO) hereby invites all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of [illegible] materials for the following:

Lot 1	— Line Hardware and Materials for Line Rehab Project	Php 2,312,625.45
Lot E	— Steel Poles (40ft, 45ft, 50ft, 55ft, 60ft, 65ft)	Php 2,363,445.00
Lot EX	— 40ft Sidewalk Base Bollard	Php 419,651.00
Lot H	— Step-Up/Step-Down Transformers (25kva, 50kva, 167kva)	Php 713,944.00
Lot F	— Load Breaker	Php 310,000.00

2. Interested Supplier whether previously accredited or not are required to submit necessary documents for accreditation to Accreditation Committee of OMECO. The duly accredited Accreditation Committee are Ms. Jenny Pedrito supported by Mr. Eric Ortiz, Jr., Chairperson of Supplies who are duly accredited by OMECO Accreditation Committee may be also invited to participate in the accreditation process and those accreditations are not suspended and re-opened by OMECO, BAC, or other regulating agencies.

3. The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the Lowest Calculated Bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification, Bid Security, Bidding, and Evaluation of Bids and award of Contract shall be in accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The complete schedule of activities are listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
Issuance of Bid documents	August 17 – 30, 2012 (Office Hours)
Pre-Bid Conference	August 23, 2012 (1:00 PM or [illegible])
Opening of Bids	September 3, 2012 (1:00 PM or [illegible])

4. Bid documents may be obtained from the office of the PBAC OMECO, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) each set per bid. Bid documents may be reproduced or [illegible] to the PBAC Secretariat Ms. Alfredia S. Tadeloran at Telephone no. (043) 491-1982.

5. The OMECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Cooperative. OMECO assumes no obligation whatsoever for expenses that may be incurred by the proponent in the preparation of their proposal nor does it recognize the principle of "no award not no match."

Approved for release:

(Sgd.) ENGR. RUDY A. ADRIANO
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ENGR. ALFRED G. GARCIA
General Manager

(BM – August 10 & 18, 2012)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Calayab, Bacar, Ilocos Norte, 2918
(077) 792-7777 / 792-7778 / Fax No. (077) 792-7778
TIN: 000-775-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all interested suppliers, manufacturers, distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following:

BID NO.	NAME OF PROJECT (Brief Description)	AMOUNT OF BID DOCUMENTS
BAC-004-2012	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of 69kV/13.2kV Power Transformer (for "Nueva Ilocos Extension" SCADA Ready)	Php 10,000.00 (non-refundable)

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar contract and have key personnel and equipment available for the execution of the contract.

The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the INEC Procurement Policy as amended.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bidding Documents	INEC Secretariat, INEC Main Office	August 20-24, 2012	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Bid Conference	Training Room, INEC Main Office	September 3, 2012	10:00 a.m.
Submission of eligibility documents and Opening of Bids	Training Room, INEC Main Office	September 11, 2012	10:00 a.m.
Post-Qualification	INEC Conference Room	September 17, 2012	10:00 a.m.

Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, Office of the GM, INEC, Brgy. Calayab, Bacar, Ilocos Norte. For additional information and queries, please contact Nena Ann Guiab (077) 792-7777, (077) 670-1568 or (077) 792-7778.

The INEC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder and without obligation and reason, to waive any minor defect(s) and informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO F. AGUAS, R.E.E.
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(Sgd.) RENATO G. GALAPOS, P.E.P.
General Manager

(PI – August 6, 2012)

LEGAL NOTICE

This public is being informed of the loss of the foregoing stock certificate by virtue of the execution of an affidavit of loss executed by Andres Cinayon July 16, 2012, notarized before Notary Public Jose O. Tibayan and entered in his Notarial Book as Doc. No. 418; Page No. 83; Book No. III; Series of 2012; and said stock certificate is more particularly described as follows:

Name of Issuing Corporation	BASEV DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Name of Registered Owner	ANDRES CINAYON
Stock Certificate No.	0000000152
No. of Shares	5,000

(PSA-Aug. 6, 13 & 20, 2012)

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) is implementing the Alliance for Rehabilitation and Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Energy Development in Ilocos Norte (ARMED) Project in accordance with the EIB Agency for International Development, the Philippine Department of Energy, and GenPower Foundation. Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) is requesting qualified organizations to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the project described below through their respective Qualified Organizations. Interested qualified organizations may obtain further information from the address below and examine the Expression of Interest document at the address given below during office hours.

Name of Project: Supply, Delivery and Installation of Solar Home Systems and Wiring, Delivery and Installation of Solar Lanterns (Small PV Lighting Systems, including training for local technicians and users in the systems).

Project Location: Three (3) municipalities located in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos del Sur provinces only.

Budget: Three Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos only (Php 3,700,000.00)

Interested qualified parties may send their Expression of Interest via email to Mr. Larry P. Pastor, Procurement Manager through his email address at [illegible]

Interested qualified parties may obtain the Expression of Interest via email to Mr. Larry P. Pastor, Procurement Manager through his email address at [illegible]

Expression of Interest shall be made available only to qualified parties that have submitted on time their complete information as requested above. Deadline for submission of EOI is on August 31, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

Attendance and participation in the Pre-Bid Conference shall be invited to those who will be issued the Bid Documents.

(Sgd.) LAURIE G. RAMIRO
Chief of Party

(PI – August 18, 20 & 22, 2012)

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Madam HELEN DOMINGO DE LOS SANTOS

Third President, UNIVERSITY OF MANILA
For the Celebration of Her Birth Anniversary
August 18, 2012

Her loving children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives, friends and the University of Manila community request your presence in Holy Mass to be held at University Chapel today, 10:00 a.m.

Other Masses will be held at:

Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat (San Beda)	7:00 A.M.
San Sebastian Parish	7:00 A.M.
St. Anthony's Shrine	6:15 A.M.
Our Lady of Lourdes	6:00 A.M.
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine	7:00 A.M.
National Shrine of St. Michael & the Archangels (San Miguel, Quiapo)	7:00 A.M.
Santissimo Rosario Parish Church	6:15 A.M.
Mother of Perpetual Help (Baclaran)	6:45 A.M.
Sto. Domingo Convent	7:45 A.M.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene (Quiapo Church)	6:00 A.M.
Sta. Cruz Parish Church	8:00 A.M.

Our Beloved Mama

LOLITA UY TAN

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 16, 2012.

She is survived by her loving husband, **HENRY ANG TAN**, and their children, **Malou, Patrick, Ann, Christopher,** and **Stephanie**. They, along with the in-laws, the grandchildren, and all the relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City until Monday, August 20, 2012.

Interment will be on Monday, August 20, 2012, Monday after the 2:00 pm Mass at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Rosary at Chapel

Death Notice

ZENAIDA RIVERA ARAZA

[illegible]

PROPERTY

Jaime Cesar G. Mangoneng

Bad habits, overdev't caused Metro floods, say analysts

By Tessa R. Salazar

THIS TIME, real estate analysts agree with the views of a nature conservationist. Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, chief executive officer of the environmental group Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines, was quoted by the Inquirer last Aug. 13, as saying "Filipinos, not the monsoon rains, are to blame for the deluge that paralyzed the metropolitan area of 14 million residents last week." The Inquirer article also cited Tan as saying that "the latest disaster is for the Philippines was a result of an unfettered and mindless march to urbanization that had replaced soils and trees, which could absorb the rains and reduce flooding, with concrete jungles."

Veteran real estate leader Ramon S. Cruz, a civil engineer who resides in Marikina, said he "fully agrees" with Tan's observations, but said this would be just "one of several factors causing these disasters."

"For example, most building and development result to less trees and open spaces, which result to more rainwater to the surface that needs to flow to the existing outdated drainage system that gets clogged because of improper waste disposal, or sometimes intentionally clogged by the enterprising neighborhood making a few pesos pushing cans out of their intentionally flooded streets."

Enrique M. Soriano III, former program director for real estate and senior adviser for Ninay Bermudez Business Advisory, said "The subject of overdevelopment is now classified as a 'dime and pennies charges' and must no longer be ignored."

Overdev't

Soriano said: "We can no longer hide an elephant in the room! Overdevelopment overwhelms the natural resources of a given area. In Metro Manila and the expanded NCR, with a population base of close to 17 million, overdevelopment is the fastest growing threat to our local environment that will inevitably impact our quality of life."

He added: "As property stakeholders, are we providing a reasonable and concerted support to make every development, every zone compliant to environmental standards? The consequences of decades of unplanned, rapid growth and poor land use management are evident: increased traffic congestion, crowded schools, worsening air and water pollution, disappearing open spaces, increased flooding, wildlife habitat destroyed (unknown of that has been left in the Metro), higher taxes and deteriorating environment."

Julius Giovanni, Colliers International's assistant director for valuation and advisory services and head of consultancy and research, said: "While some real estate developers have again been put in a bad light, I think that some sectors have unfairly put the blame on this sector. Bad urban planning and management is the culprit, and real estate developers wouldn't build on a site if they didn't get the permits. How they get those permits is another story altogether, though."

Guevara explained that "the effects of climate change, whether caused by man or nature, is apparent in the spate of flooding that we are experiencing. Real estate development should be more responsible." Guevara suggested that one way to do this is to injury green building strategies into the development. He explained that stormwater management strategies can be employed, such as building retention and detention ponds to control rainwater onsite before it goes to the public stormwater systems. These ponds and bioswales can be installed in horizontal developments to act as amenities as well as effective stormwater control.

"One may notice that it floods in the metro right away even when it doesn't seem to rain that much. This is because there is too much impervious materials on our ground, such as concrete and asphalt. Minimizing these impervious surfaces is essential; porous paving blocks can be substituted so that water can be absorbed by the soil underneath," Guevara said.

Obsolete dev't patterns

Soriano suggested that the government and stakeholders must now rethink and rewrite development patterns that are obsolete, with some dating back to the end of World War II. The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) must now compel developers to disperse developmental programs outside Metro Manila and encourage "smart growth initiatives" in city centers compromised by overdevelopment. Governments must now seriously "walk the talk" on issues related to urban development, from vehicle dependent-mass transit plans and discontinue programs in the enhancement of zoning and homebuilding laws.

Cruz added that even with a good drainage system, the water needs to flow to the creeks or natural waterways which is sliced because of indiscriminate waste dumping and narrower (drainage system) because of illegal settlement and illegal encroachment or reclamation.

"But please look at the essentials. Low trees because of logging, legal or illegal, subdivision developments, and mining. Because of less trees in the mountains, more water comes down to the rivers. Coming down with the water are mountain soils and waste that will contribute to the siltation and clogging of the riverways," Cruz said.

He urged readers to see the extent of "these causes" by opening Google Maps.

"In the Shanghai Flooding for example, a closer look will show an obstacle in the sprint of the man-made canal. A closer look will show further that there are kinglong plantations that were once mangrove, but during critical flooding situation, their being in the waterway adds to the problem by impeding water flow."

In civil engineering terms, an apron is "any device for protecting a surface of earth from the action of moving water, a platform to receive the water falling over a dam."

(Analysis offer more solutions next week)

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE STORM

Stakeholders offer tips on restoration, cleanup

By Theresa E. Samaniego

AFTER THE HAVOC have stopped, the skies have cleared, and floods have subsided, a bigger and more daunting predicament may give homeowners another reason to worry.

The cleanup and restoration of affected lot at most, devastated homes are among the more grueling tasks that many owners have to face in the aftermath of the devastation wrought by natural typhoons, such as the torrential rains poured by the recent monsoon.

It is, however, important to keep in mind a number of things that should be at your priority list and to follow certain guidelines to ensure that all efforts geared toward cleaning up and salvaging whatever's left of your property will not be in vain.

To help homeowners in such process, Inquirer Property had polled several stakeholders from the property and allied related sectors in lend their expertise as to what should be done in the aftermath of the storms and floods. Here is what they have to say:

"Check all electrical outlets (in rooms that these) are dry before switching the main power source. Grounded electrical connection may cause fatal electric shock or fire! For cleanings, check electric drainage for clogs and debris (and clean it up to) spare your house to be flooded even due to light rains if your storm drainage has not been cleaned.

"Not the structure, check if there are parts (within your lot) that have eroded or scarred so this may result (in) unstable ground." —engineer Ian Garcia, Alegacion Ed Corp.

"Most structures have foundations that sit on adobe bedrock, and thus, should not be affected. Other systems added to the structure like outings, paneling and cabinetry should be checked by an expert/ certified contractor, as they may have absorbed water and their fixings may have weakened and could cause the fixtures to dislodge or collapse.

"You will need to open all the power outlets that were submerged and flush out any remaining floodwater with an Aqua suspension with a hose— like what painters use—and let the circuit breakers/fusing out with air, leave it for a day or two sufficient enough(to) it in, so as to allow the outlets to dry thoroughly. Do not reinstall the plates until they have been dried out.

"If your main circuit breaker was submerged, you will have to do the same flushing for all the circuits, and possibly dismantle the wires and switches, wipe them dry, then reinstall.

"Check the interior floors and walls (when the remaining silt in the floodwater dries and calms on your floors. If you have wooden floors, try to dab a rag on these joints to try and remove any remaining water in between the planks or pieces. Wash down and dry out all your surfaces as the longer they are wet, the more they will suffer damage from the water.

"Wash down upholstery immediately. Use a disinfectant diluted in your wash water to kill germs and other organic matter. Foam cushions should be squeezed to wash out particles within. For seams or areas (that) like mattress or granite, try spreading on it, a paste of baking soda and water, leave for half a day, then rinse off. The mild stains should come off."

"After the entire structure is dry thoroughly for a week or two before sending it off for repair, to the timber will still be moving as it risks itself of excess moisture."—Isabel Bergquer-Bascuñana, principal architect, Asociación Bergquer Inc. and Inquirer columnist

"Clean and sanitize all areas affected by the flood and make sure to dry-up every nook. Use a strong bleach to clean that counter with Lysol as isolated areas can breed molds.

"Check all floors and walls to make sure no floodwater is inside. Check (use) wooden panels or wall panels to dry up, (or) best to replace wood panels (with) with concrete walls. Replace wooden baseboards or panels wood from absorbing water by reflooding in doors/all fields.

"Clean and dry wood furniture thoroughly then refinish. Reupholster seating (we make sure) to replace all inner materials (foam and sponge) to prevent molds from setting in. Throw away and replace mattresses submerged in floodwater—it is not worth keeping and cleaning."—Nicci Ayle, principal, Style & Associates and design consultant for Rockwell Land Corp.

"In repairing the furniture, you need to examine each piece and determine the extent of the damage. Then you separate the items that you feel can be saved and those that are not salvageable for insurance claims. Upholstered furniture that has been completely submerged in water for a long period of time is prone to mold and mildew, whereas wood furniture is prone to warping. So keep this in mind when you start reorganizing your home after a flood.

"Move the furniture out of a wet, damp or extremely humid area to ensure fast drying and facilitate drying. If the furniture is too bulky to move, try to place it on thick wood blocks so that it sits higher and away from a damp carpet or floor. If your pieces are muddy, rinse them off with clean water and dry in the sun. Reinstall pieces away from the sun.

"The furniture pieces need to be dried thoroughly. For those who have furniture with upholstered upholstery, remove the lower cushions and drapes and have them cleaned and dried separately to avoid bleeding of the fabric colors.

"Wood furniture needs to be wiped dry as soon as possible. To speed up the drying process, you may open all panels of the wood furniture such as doors. Only once the furniture has been completely dried can you start the restoration process. I recommend contacting the furniture manufacturer so they can advise you with refurbishing and guide you as to what products to use if the damage is not extensive."—Stephanie Alanda of Philux

RESIDENTS of Rodriguez, Rizal salvage whatever's left of their belongings after a flash flood.

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More than a scoop of fun awaits shoppers

By Theresa E. Samaniego

A SINGLE scoop from this ice cream haven decades ago was enough to put a twinkle on every child's eyes. It was a habit too hard to break then and yet too sinful to indulge in.

From the many peach melba, banana split, shakes and ice cream cakes it served, the Magnolia Ice Cream House in Quezon City no doubt brought endless and priceless memories to all its patrons.

And while the old Magnolia Ice Cream House is no longer there for this generation to experience, a new kitchen promises to continue bringing person perfect moments, to make those eyes twinkle again.

Relaxing ambience

Located in the bustling corner of Aurora Boulevard and formally Street near New Manila, the newly renovated Robinsons Mall Magnolia provides small grown the relaxing ambience of an outdoor setting and the cool comforts of sleek interior spaces.

Inside, the mall boasts a grand entrance lobby and spacious hallways that lead to a four-level of fresco area that overlooks The Plaza, a lushly landscaped open space dotted with water features and an area for live entertainment.

The Plaza is also where the new Ice Cream House can be found, serving the same old concoctions that we so love.

Frederick Co, promotions and chief operating officer of Robinsons Land Corp., pointed out as well that Robinsons Mall Magnolia is a "very environmentally friendly mall and a green building."

To explained: "We have many firsts in our building [Robinsons Magnolia]. We actually collect rainwater here and recycle it. We also recycle treated water from our STP [sewage treatment plant] and as you can see, we have incorporated many features that make it a green building such as skylights. We have rainwater that will down to Mark on the best."

The 42,000 square-meter multistory Robinsons Mall Magnolia is the 22nd shopping mall of the Gokongwei-led RLC. It is MG-friendly and PWD-friendly (people with disability) and has bakeware facilities, a customer pay lounge, valet service, and monitored taxi service. It concierge facility is also on hand to provide the best customer service.

ROBINSONS Magnolia provides mall goers the relaxing ambience of an outdoor setting and the cool comforts of sleek interior spaces.

It also houses a clutter variety of shops and dining places.

"We have a wonderful tenant mix," Gozali.

True enough, the mall has international brands on the house including Topshop/Topman, Mango, Miss Selfridge, Dorothy Perkins, Shoji, Warehouse, Jane Klein, Toronto Hilfiger, Fred Perry Laureate, Burgoin, Penny Ellis, Moo Wear, Promod and Blue Ginny. High street staples such as Guy, Cotton On, Accessorize, Springfield, Candy Castle, Superga, and Steve Madden are also be found in the Robinsons Mall Magnolia.

Dining experience

Gastronomic dining experiences also awaits mall goers in Robinsons Magnolia will have some of the country's best restaurants such as Tao Yuan, Thai Huts, Conti's, 1771, Sumosan, Chambelin's New Orleans, Hua, Chefs Chefly and Market Market, Cafe Breeze, Sushi Bar, Mang Inasal, Happy Lemon, Mary Grace and Jamba Juice will surely satisfy the cravings of every dreamt lover.

What may be the most remarkable in the four-story mall will be the Cinema 8 that features what RLC claims to be the "first-ever food court in the metro that features island-style food stalls with open kitchens."

Robinsons meanwhile may find other fine retail finds in different shops like Tony Velez, Gonzalo's, Bow and Wow, Power Plus Center for entertainment, there's a Tom's World and Gymboree for kids, and four digital cinemas that are easily accessible from the mall's all floors area.

The mall also has Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Department Store and Robinsons Appliances.

Following the opening of the Robinsons Magnolia, the said RLC is set to open a few more malls in other key areas such as Sorsogon, Malolos, Antipolo, Las Piñas and Malabon.

ALL SMILES as Avida Towers Davao sets forth with the 3 Condo Hard Hats.

Avida builds . . . From page B3-4

Building amenities include the main lobby, a pavilion for each unit, two elevator units for Towers One, garbage chute, fire protection and alarm system, and a CCTV camera at the lobby. Security is provided 24/7 and property management is provided by Avida Property Management Corp.

Panoramic views

Available units include studio units (22 to 25 sq m, priced at P1.69 to P1.93 million); one-bedroom units (27 to 42 sq m, priced at P2.05 to P3.02 million); and two-bedroom units (56 sq m, priced at P5.81 million).

Residents who avail of special units will enjoy lovely panoramic views of mountain ranges, the Davao River, the Davao Gulf and the country area, depending on which side of the building their units are located.

Those who wish to know more about Avida Towers Davao may go to www.avida-land.com. Details regarding where to call from overseas are available at the Avida Land website.

For more than 20 years, Avida has focused on enriching the lives of the hardworking Filipino middle class by offering their families homes to be proud of. These are homes that derive in a peaceful and safe community and are accessible to public transportation.

As of the first half of 2012, Avida Land has 31 projects in 21 strategic locations. Avida homes are all beautifully and practically designed, and built to provide reliable performance over time, while being affordable living at its best.

Garbage and dinner From page B3-4

part of a procedure.

A consumer may also be made to pay a deposit at the time of purchase as part of the product price, and given a refund if the waste product such as empty bottles and aluminum cans are returned to the seller or authorized recycling centers.

Singapore and Australia have a Polluter Pays Principle for damage done to the environment in violations or packaging of products. Local government units may impose heavy fines for the violation of legislated measures and methods of collection, conveyance and disposal of solid wastes.

For comments or inquiries, email homebuilder@gmail.com.

ROBINSONS Magnolia will have three floors of al fresco dining.

SHS Summer by Rockwell is another flood-proof venture from Rockwell Land Corp.

ROCKWELL has continuously delivered communities that are designed to withstand natural calamities.

Flood-free Rockwell a refuge during disasters

By Theresa S. Samaniego

AT THE height of the torrential rains and massive flooding in the metro last week, one local government official was overheard on the radio advising his constituents to temporarily seek shelter within the vicinity of Rockwell Center.

The official must be kidding these rains had been extended to instruct your their time within the Rockwell area, and wait for the floods to subside before going home.

Such an anecdote was by no means an entirely novel tale. After all, the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009 also spawned similar stories that tell of people and cars finding temporary refuge within the 31.5-hectare flagship project of the Lopez-led Rockwell Land Corp. in Makati.

But what those stories ultimately show as is the underlying fact that the Rockwell Center has aptly demonstrated how such proper and careful planning, calamity-proof structures and communities can be made into a reality.

In fact, all of the completed (Rockwell Center West and East Block Towers, The Power Plant Mall and the Rockwell Business Center) and on-going projects (200 Amorsolo by Rockwell, Veladero Tower and Garden Villas and The Grove by Rockwell) of Rockwell Land have remained flood-free even during the heaviest of downpours.

This is perhaps why Rockwell Land developments have since become the preferred choice, as these provide residents a secure and safe environment that embodies the true meaning of the word "masterplan."

Indeed, Rockwell projects can serve as a scale model for future developments. But company officials were quick to note that one need not be a rocket scientist to put up structures that could withstand damages wrought by nature.

Site selection

One crucial factor, according to Rockwell, was the selection of the area where the property will be built and how you will be able to work around the existing conditions and landscape.

"We strictly adhere to clearing the land we acquire properly through our site selection process. We make sure that the land we acquire and build on does not have a history of flooding," company officials said.

While Rockwell Land strives to ensure that its prospective sites are not prone to flooding, some of its developments, admittedly, have been situated near major confluxes of waters. It's surprisingly these have managed to stay flood free, showing no telltale signs of the rain, according to officials, as silt-infused through multiple drainage lines, thus easing the flow of water in its system.

As previously reported, Rockwell Land, for all its property developments, commissions a 100-year flood cycle study, which will enable the company to gauge the property's elevation and to craft a suitable plan for the area.

100-year flood cycle

According to officials, Rockwell Land tapped consultants to study 100 years of possible flood cycles, to which the company adopts the planning and construction of their developments. Using the same study, Rockwell Land is also able to develop amenities previous that work with nature's course instead of opting against it.

Meanwhile, Rockwell Land has also underscored the necessity of proper maintenance for any project, especially for a tropical country like the Philippines. This will ensure that all their projects will remain calamity-proof as expected and promised.

"For maintenance, we make sure that all our drainage outlets are cleaned and declogged during the summer months (yearly April) every year) to prepare for the rainy season. During heavy rains, we have a stand-by team to respond to any emergencies, for any concerns. Our security and ambulance teams are also on stand-by during (typhoons or heavy rains," they explained.

"And after heavy rains, we again conduct inspection on all areas to ensure debris that might have cleared to our systems and conduct cleaning as necessary. This is done to ensure that we are again prepared for future typhoons and heavy rain," they added.

Using the right cement crucial in construction

By Theresa S. Samaniego

IN A TYPHOON-BATTERED country like the Philippines, any kind of structure must be built upon a strong, solid foundation.

Owners of buildings and houses alike should thus be on the lookout not only for the most elaborate design or most reputable architects and contractors when starting construction of such structures. It has also become imperative to take utmost care in choosing that one material that can be crucial in ensuring the strength and integrity of their structures—cement.

"Cement is used to help build the foundation, floor and walls of your house, so it's important for you to be aware [of] your options," noted Wilson Rupac Ico, marketing manager of Holcim Philippines Inc.

Holcim Philippines is the local unit of Swiss construction materials giant Holcim Ltd., one of the world's leading suppliers of cement and aggregates (crushed stone, gravel and sand) as well as downstream activities such as ready-mix concrete and asphalt.

"By doing this, you are not only assured about the quality of materials but you can also realize substantial savings," Rupac Ico said.

While most people engage in elaborate preparations in building their dream homes, not all would pay attention to the kind of cement that will be used during construction.

Most people, according to Rupac Ico, are unaware of the various cement types made available for specific applications. Picking the right ones ensures not only better product performance but even efficiency as well.

For instance, Rupac Ico said cement must use general purpose cement for structural applications as this is formulated to develop strength to bear loads and ideal for floor slabs, columns and beams.

For non-structural applications, masonry cement would be ideal since this product is designed for non-structural use such as hollow block laying and filling and wall plastering.

Better performance

Rupac Ico explained, "Holcim produces both products. We call our general purpose cement Holcim Excel and our masonry cement Wallright. But we believe that our products perform better due to the mineral additives we have mixed. Concrete made with Excel develops higher early strength, which shortens construction time. It is also more workable eliminating the need for repairs and rework."

"Wallright, meanwhile, was designed so it will be easier to spread and have bond strength of 200 percent compared to general purpose cement. It will be retained so it comes out with a smoother and whiter finish, making it ideal for plastering," he added.

Rupac Ico pointed out that many would mistakenly use general purpose cement for all construction needs, which is costlier and unnecessary. Thus, a better knowledge of cement will allow one to use the right products and help save on costs at the same time.

"You can use general purpose cement for your home construction needs, but that will turn out to be more expensive. Remember, if the cement is just going to be used for plastering and hollow block laying, you don't need it to develop load-bearing strength as masonry cement is the appropriate cement to use," he noted.

As an example, Rupac Ico explained that you would need 300 bags of general purpose cement to build a one-story house. But if you use a combination of Excel and Wallright, you only need 50 and 40 bags, respectively.

"This is because Wallright is designed to use sand and more sand to it and produce more mortar for hollow block filling and plastering of walls. Aside from this, Wallright is cheaper by P5 to P10 per bag. All in, using this combination translates to savings of P325 per bag," he explained.

Rupac Ico added that hollow block makers can yield up to 11 more blocks by using Excel instead of the other cement available in the market.

"Your house is a big investment, and it is only natural that you would want it to last a long time. Picking the right construction materials, especially cement, can help you achieve this, because it would help guarantee the strength and durability of your house," Rupac Ico concluded.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Manzanero

SOUTHWARD EXPANSION

Avida builds first condo project in Davao City

AVIDA LAND, the affordable brand of property giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), has offered to the market its first ever residential condominium project in Davao, which is also its second offering in Mindanao—Avida Towers Davao. This continues the property developer's steady expansion in the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

Strategically located on C.M. Recto Avenue in Davao City, Avida Towers Davao offers residents unmatched convenience as it puts them close to all essential, modern and fun conveniences. Avida Towers Davao is close to malls, the business district, places of recreation, hospitals, schools and churches.

As the name implies, Avida Towers Davao is located within a peaceful community that heightens the experience of relaxation and privacy. The structure is designed for both function and aesthetic pleasure, with its modern contemporary architecture.

Avida Towers Davao is meant to be a master-planned community with a total land area of 8,126 square meters, including its two residential towers. Towers One will house 416 residential units including special two-bedroom units from the 19th to the 22nd floor and 179 parking units from the ground floor to the fourth floor.

Residents will enjoy wonderful views at the podium level at the fifth floor, which serves as the main amenity area. Amenities include kiddie and adult pools, a children's play area, an outdoor playground and exercise equipment, a meditation area, a multipurpose hall, and a retail strip at the ground floor area for convenient access to basic necessities.

As standard in all Avida developments, **Avida Towers Davao integrates the Five** Condo Must-Haves for the best condominium living experience: free-flowing air and sunlight; home units just from the most privacy and less crowding; notable amenities; emergency power even inside one's unit; and easy payment terms.

AVIDA SEE 2

Garbage and dinner

MANY OF US are quick to blame many factors that caused the flooding. This includes erratic rainfall, extreme weather conditions caused by climate change.

Other factors are rapid urbanization and when have been filled that make the metropolis warmer than surrounding places. The high concentration of populations in the National Capital Region means more people, more consumption and more solid wastes.

However, we many realize that as consumers, all of us are directly responsible for the problems of flooding.

In Metro Manila, at least six thousand tons of garbage is generated daily by 11 million people. That means we have an annual per capita waste generation of about 400 pounds in Metro Manila.

The United States has 1,650 lb annual per capita waste generation; Canada has 1,400 lb; Japan has 750 lb.

In the United States, daily solid waste generated can fill up 63,000 garbage trucks lined up from San Francisco to Los Angeles about 600 miles.

Green Architrends

Amando de Jesus

Marine trash

Manila's private garbage collectors are said to have not enough dumping area that they throw some of the garbage collected into the sea.

There is at present global concern about trash found in the ocean including the ubiquitous coffee cup of polystyrene foam.

ANIMALS looking for food among in the sea mistake plastic and other trash for food. photo by AP

Coffee cups of polystyrene foam are broken down in water and found in the stomachs of dead marine animals.

A type of sea gull had on average of 30 pieces of plastic in their stomachs from the Seas in the North Sea. Plastic not only kills marine animals, but also damages and degrades their habitat.

Scientists say that the amount of plastic particles in the oceans has grown three times in half a century. Microscopic pieces of plastic can be found everywhere in the seas and oceans, even inside plankton, the keystone of the marine food chain.

Northeast of Hawaii is the not so peaceful Pacific Ocean, bigger than Texas is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Weighing more than 3 million tons around 80 percent of which are tiny pieces of plastic, the garbage patch is a fantasy trapped by air and seven currents. A similar occurrence is taking place in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Endangered coral reefs

Coral reefs are called the rainforests of the sea because they provide abundant homes and food to marine life. They need temperatures of at least 18 degrees Celsius and are therefore abundant in the tropics. They are vulnerable to pollutants, cyanide and dynamite, and sudden rise of water temperature like El Niño events.

Illegal activities including dumping of garbage into the sea damage algae that grow abundantly in coral reefs. Fish looking for food among disappearing coral reefs mistake plastic and other trash for food.

One can imagine the amount of plastic consumed by fish that we serve on the dinner table.

Policy options

Some countries easily produce fines to be imposed like a motorist is very stressed in the potential waste disposed and pollution in-

GARBAGE SEE 2

Avida Land brings exclusive community living to Bulacan with Madera Grove Estates

(L-R) Ms. Bea Cruz, Avida Land Project Brangay Management Group Head; Mr. Chris Magkawas, Avida Land President; Adelaida City Mayor Clemente Narbonda; Mr. Pol Tiaoso, Avida Land Business Development Head and Visayas Area Group Head, in the town of Madera Grove Estates launch ceremony

Avida Land Corp. formally launched Madera Grove Estates, a new and exclusive residential project located in the heart of historic Malolos City, Bulacan, last July 30, 2012. Madera Grove Estates, a 11-hectare development with huge lot sizes and beautifully designed homes, is the first venture of Avida Land through Avida in Bulacan. Like the other developments in Avida's newly formed portfolio, Madera Grove Estates is built upon five pillars that guarantee safe and secure living, namely: Accessibility, Unique Features and Amenities, Quality Assurance, Stress-free Buying Experience, and Fulfilling Living Experience.

"There are 864 units available for purchase, including twin units and houses and lot units. Model homes showcase from four house types: the Alder, Birch, Cedar, and Daisy. Beauty and affordability are integrated in these well designed homes.

An aerial shot of the whole community

MADERA GROVE ESTATES

Avida Land Management Team

The Sales Office can be found on the ground floor of Paseo de Roxas and is open to the home inquiries and reservations.

Madera Grove Estates is strategically located in Brgy. Tikiwan in Malolos City, Bulacan. It is directly accessible from the McArthur Highway and is near schools, churches, the Malolos City Hall, and commercial and business establishments. Madera Grove is also a few kilometers far enough from the problems and stressful concerns of highly urbanized areas, yet it is still close enough for easy access to Metro Manila.

Satisfied buyers also took part in the celebration as they attested to what made them choose Madera Grove Estates.

Mr. & Mrs. Daddy and Jeanne Natividad

"We're planning to build our retirement home in Madera Grove Estates. We were encouraged to buy when the Avida sales representative called us and informed us that construction and filling of the lots, as well as the 24-meter wide frontage roads in a well-known developer and the subdivision will be exclusive. We also like its proximity to Manila and the business districts in Malolos."

Mrs. Nerissa Prijoso and family

"We bought the lot we lotted on our Dine Mommy, when working overseas as a dog officer. When the property specialist presented Madera Grove Estates to us, we were encouraged because it has more open spaces, bigger lot size, and exclusive community. I think it is a good property for investment."

Mrs. Soledad Esperanza

"When I saw the Madera Grove Estates development inside Avida's Booth, I immediately told my husband that we should buy there. I was further convinced when I learned that it's an Avida Land development. We bought the property as an investment. We can either resell it or build a house."

For more information please call Avida Land at (02) 849 6500 or (043) 312 9000.

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PROPERTY

Edge Cover D. Manzanero

Megacities have no other way to go but 'green'

By Theresa S. Samonings

THE MASSIVE floods that recently devastated parts of Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces will not be the last of its kind.

In fact, a report released recently by the Asian Development Bank titled "Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2013," has warned that some 5.7 million of the urban population in the Philippines remained vulnerable to inland flooding, while some 6.6 million people are vulnerable to coastal flooding.

The report likewise rated Quezon City as among the Top 50 Asian Cities at risk to inland flooding, putting in a potential peril some 2.9 million of its residents.

Unfortunately this vulnerability to flooding is expected to further intensify not only in the Philippines but also in a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region due to rapid urbanization—millions of people migrating into the cities and further increasing the already high population densities in these areas.

Challenge

"Asia has seen unprecedented urban population growth but this has been accompanied by increasing stress on the environment. The challenge now is to put in place policies which will reverse that trend and facilitate the development of green technology and green urbanization," ADB chief economist Changyong Rhee said in a statement.

Since the '80s, Asia has been transiting at a faster pace than anywhere else, with the region already home to almost half of all the world's city dwellers. In just over a decade, it will have 21 of 37 megacities worldwide, and over the next 10 years another 1.1 billion people are expected to join Asia's already swollen urban ranks, the report said.

The report showed that Manila is also expected to become one of those so-called megacities by 2025.

However, that breakneck urbanization came at a price: a sharp rise in pollutant, rising crime rates and stalling economic and social inequalities which are causing rapid environmental degradation.

Disturbing

Particularly disturbing are urban carbon dioxide emissions, which if left unchecked could a business-as-usual scenario, could reach 20.2 metric tons per capita by 2050, a level which would have disastrous consequences for both Asia and the rest of the world.

The Philippines and its neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region must therefore act now to pave the way for green, resource-friendly cities, or risk serious face a "bleak and environmentally degraded future."

This time, it is no longer enough for the people to implement the concept of "going green" within its own environment.

As the ADB had put it, going green now "means building cities that are livable, investing in drainage and flood barrier infrastructure."

This premise was similar to some of the 83 recommendations that world-renowned urban planner and architect Felipe "Jun" Jimbon Jr. had put forward to the national government years ago, when he had sought to make Metro Manila and other cities in the country less vulnerable to disasters.

In his letter to President Aquino in 2011, Fabian stressed the need not only to make the buildings safer, earthquake resistant, flood-proof and fire-proof, but also to improve the roads, open spaces and parks.

Green urbanization path

Despite the frightening challenges that urbanization poses to governments, there is "hope," according to the ADB.

"Asia must follow a green urbanization path by instituting policies that help improve efficiency and conservation of resources and promote the use of new technologies and renewable energy," the report stated.

Many countries have already begun diversifying their energy sources to include re-

HEADLINES B4-5

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Editor Cesar G. Pangalangan

SCIENCE/HEALTH

'Fight climate change one plate at a time,' Pinoys lobby Congress

By Tess R. Salazar

SKEPTICS OF climate change are being swept away by a rumbling body of evidence that proves man-made factors have played a significant role in the unprecedented warming of the global meteorological phenomenon that has caused weather extremes in all corners of the planet.

On July 29, 2012, The Guardian's Leo Hickman wrote that on land, the earth has warmed by 1.3 degrees C over the past 250 years, and "humans are almost entirely the cause," according to a scientific study set up to address climate skeptics' concerns about whether human-induced global warming has actually been occurring.

The UK-based The Guardian also quoted physicist professor Richard Muller, a climate change skeptic who headed the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature project as saying, "We were not expecting this, but as scientists, we must keep open minds. Human beings are not stupid." The Guardian also quoted him as saying that he now considered himself a "converted skeptic" and his views had undergone a "total turnaround" in a short span of time.

Dominant cause of warming

Discovery News on Dec. 6, 2011, reported that it would be "extremely likely" that human activities have been "by far the dominant cause of warming" in the earth's climate since 1950, citing a study published in the Journal Nature Geoscience.

The analysis article "Human Factors Reign on Climate Change" by Kieran Mulvaney explains that most predictions of temperature increases as a result of greenhouse gas emissions employ a new technique called "optimal fingerprinting," which involves statistical analysis of complex climate models. The article also quoted Peter Stott of the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science in Switzerland as saying, "Optimal fingerprinting is a powerful technique, but in many people it's a black box."

In its May 30, 2009 edition, Rolling Magazine featured Patrick O. Brown, a Stanford University biochemist who invented the DNA microarray (a tool measuring how cells make use of their DNA) and took a break from his normal scientific work to strive to change the way the world produced and consumed food. According to Forbes, Brown had resumed to just an end to malnourishing, or at least put a dent in, hunger in the global hunger factories, pigs and children. Brown, who has been a vegetarian for more than three decades (and a vegan for five years, according to Forbes), cited livestock as a culprit in human-caused carbon dioxide emissions, human-caused methane and human-caused nitrous oxide.

Mention Monday-Philippines—led by founder neuroscientist Gavin Dioscoro—singled out a 2008 article in The Guardian that cited the United Nations Environment Program's international panel of scientists to assess management declaring, "As the global population surges towards a predicted 9.1-billion people by 2050, Western tastes for diets rich in meat and dairy products are unsustainable." Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has also urged the public to observe one meat-free day a week to curb carbon emissions.

Rep. Teddy Casiño, on Aug. 11, delivered a privilege speech deemed "Fighting Climate Change, One Plate at a Time" in support of the Meatless Monday bill (HB6111).

'Lantung' Lunes'

In his speech, Casiño said, "In Sophia school, which's our guest students attend, they have adopted a program called Meatless Mondays which originated from a joint effort of the Johns Hopkins and Columbia University Schools of Public Health. In Tagalog pa tinatawag ng Lantung Lunes.

"Kasi, ever geography has always caused us weather problems, but year after year it has worsened due to climate change. This is not surprising anymore as the Philippines has long been cited among the most vulnerable countries affected by climate change.

"The recent report by the United Nations Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and the German Alliance Development Works found the Philippines as top three among countries facing the highest risk against climate change. The logical question that should be asked, is, how do we mitigate, if not stop climate change? This is the message that our students bring with them today. Their call is 'Pigils climate change, one plate at a time.' We, one plate at a time."

It has been estimated that the Meatless Monday campaign, when practiced by 25.7 million Filipino students in a span of one year, could have the same beneficial effects on CO2-emissions as taking 84,392 cars off the road, or having 12.35 million trees planted and grown for 10 years.

Double-disease burden

Casiño said the bill also aims to address the double disease burden of child malnutrition and adult obesity.

According to a 2008 study by the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute, a quarter of adult Filipinos are already hypertensive and 7 million are diagnosed with diabetes, making the Philippines one of the world's Top 10 epicenters of the disease.

Each year, 300,000 Filipinos die of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), with heart diseases as the leading cause of death. Lung cancer kills the NCDs are suggesting. They also underwrite the country's economic development. Meatless Monday-Philippines is now in social media site Facebook.

A vital move for healthcare

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

THE "SIN TAX" bill is now in the hands of our senators after its amended version got the House's approval on final reading two months ago. Although the approved version is somewhat watered down with proposed revenues from it reduced from an estimated P68 billion to P52 billion annually, it still will provide much-needed funds for the improvement of our healthcare services. Hopefully, there will be no further watering down of the bill in the Senate.

It will be noted that the sin tax reform bill has been languishing in the House of Representatives for more than 10 years before it was finally approved last June. The strong lobbying of the tobacco and alcohol industry made approval of the bill a tough nut to crack in the House. No less can be expected in the Senate.

The increased cost of cigarettes and alcohol products, which will be implemented once the bill finally becomes a law, will be a strong deterrent for the poor and the young smokers. It is quite ironical that the poor are spending for those vices more than 10 times what they're spending for either education or healthcare. The price of cigarettes and alcohol in our country are still relatively affordable compared to other neighboring countries.

Help bill's expeditious passage

The strong pitch which President Aquino made for the sin tax bill in his State of the Nation address should help the expeditious passage of the bill in the Senate. I'm not sure if the president will awaken you-you that he kicks the ball himself for his pals and the country's sake) but it from far one take pride that he has succeeded in passing the bill where at least two or three previous presidents failed. He being a smoker makes it ironical, but it's still quite clear to torture-sanity.

The generated revenues from the implementation of this sore-to-become law will also give healthcare delivery in the country a huge dose-shot in the arm, since 85 percent of the incremental revenues from the tax reforms on tobacco and alcohol products will be allocated for healthcare services. This will truly benefit the poor in more ways we can imagine.

More beneficial to the poor

In fact, I personally think it is more beneficial to the poor than the Cheaper Medicines Law approved several years ago, which cut the price of essential medicines by as much as 30 percent. We've stressed in previous columns that the Cheaper Medicines Law would probably help the upper 20- to 30-percent of the population who could well-remain financially for the much bigger majority whose trip to the hospital or drugstore confronts them with a dilemma whether to do the required lab-

ratory exams and buy the prescribed medicines, or to buy food for their family for the next several days. In the end, a grumbling stomach prevails over an aching heart or a swollen joint.

The additional funds for healthcare from the sin tax law will route directly address the health needs of the poor. The additional funds could hopefully redress the serious imbalance in the distribution of major healthcare resources in the country, which is already alarming. It is well known that poor provinces have very limited medical facilities and health professionals roaming them. This is partly due to the predominance of both the private and public sector providers to locate in urban areas. With a bigger health budget, the government could provide a more decent compensation for these workers to make them stay in underserved areas. Despite the dilution of many health workers, the desire to live a decent life and provide for the needs of their respective families have to be reasonably met.

Irony of sorts

Previous data showed that more than 60 percent of all healthcare facilities are located in cities with about half of them in the National Capital Region. Roughly only 10 percent of the country's doctors, dentists and pharmacists, 20 percent of nutritionists/dietitians and 35 percent of nurses are practicing in the rural areas. Previously, Philhealth rushed up devoting much of its resources reimbursing healthcare facilities and providers in the more developed areas, which was an irony of sorts.

Marginalized Philhealth members did not bother to avail of their health benefits because they still could not afford what they needed to shell out on top of what was covered by Philhealth. At least, these recent years, even indigent families are now Philhealth members and for most diseases, they don't have to shell out a single centavo when hospitalized or treated for their medical problems.

We're still quite a distance from universal healthcare or "kalusugang pangkalahatan," but the additional funds from re-visualization of taxes on tobacco and alcohol products can certainly help a lot to provide the fuel for the country's healthcare engine to reach its final destination of 100-percent coverage.

We eagerly await as our senators make the next vital move on the sin tax bill.

Don't let your heart become a failure

THE DOCTOR IS IN

Rhoven A. Divinagracia, M.D.

A LITTLE LARGER than a fist, the normal heart is a strong, muscular pump. Each day, it beats 100,000 times and pumps more than 7,000 liters of blood. In a 70-year lifespan, an average human heart beats more than 2.5 billion times. Unfortunately certain conditions and diseases, if left untreated, can damage the heart and compromise its ability to pump sufficient amount of blood, a condition known as heart failure.

High blood pressure (hypertension) makes the heart work harder to pump blood. Over time, the increased workload leads to an enlarged heart that does not pump blood efficiently. Coronary heart disease causes narrowing of the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle, reducing the flow of blood through the vessels. This deprives portions of the heart muscle of oxygen, particularly during exercise or physical activity when the body needs more blood supply and oxygen. Coronary heart disease causes heart failure when it impairs the pumping function of the heart...it can also lead to a heart attack (myocardial infarction).

Heart muscle disease

Cardiomyopathy is a disease of the heart muscle (myocardium) that results in an enlarged, poorly pumping heart. Heart valve disease, which can be caused by a number of conditions including rheumatic heart disease, heart attack and aging, can also lead to heart failure. The valve can become narrowed (stenosis), which interferes with blood flow through the valve and increases pressure in the heart. In other cases, the valve can become leaky (insufficient), causing blood to flow backward (regurgitation). Some valves become both narrowed and leaky.

Untreated, heart failure results in the progressive decrease in the amount of blood pumped by the heart (cardiac output), which causes a variety of symptoms. These include weakness, lightheadedness or dizziness, shortness of breath, rapid heart rate even while resting, swelling in the lower legs and feet (edema) or in the abdomen (ascites), and feeling tired quickly. Complications of untreated heart failure include cardiomegaly, the, irregular heart rhythms (arrhythmias) that can lead to blood clots or even a stroke, and heart attack.

Heart failure is usually a chronic condition that continues for years. Treatment often involves a combination of lifestyle modifications, medications and a device that prevents against arrhythmias (implantable cardioverter defibrillator or ICD).

Lifestyle modifications include salt and water intake reduction, weight control, smoking cessation, limiting alcohol intake, and cardiac rehabilitation and exercise. Medications for heart failure include diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs), beta blockers and blood thinners. Aside from lowering blood pressure, diuretics also help relieve the get rid of excess fluid that causes edema.

For heart to pump blood

ACE inhibitors and ARBs reduce blood vessels and lower blood pressure, thereby making it easier for the heart to pump blood. ACE inhibitors widen blood vessels and slow heart rate to improve blood flow and decrease blood pressure, which makes it easier for the heart to pump blood around the body. Blood thinners, such as warfarin and aspirin, help prevent blood clots that develop due to arrhythmias.

ACE inhibitors, ARBs, and beta blockers are proven to help prolong the life of patients with heart failure. The use of beta blockers (safe in low-dose) to treat failure has been proven to improve ventricular function and patient well-being, reduce hospital admission for worsening heart failure, and increase patient survival.

Dr. Rhoven Divinagracia is a cardiologist at heart specialists and the founder and past president of the Heart Failure Society of the Philippines. The Doctor is in column is a health information advisory supported by Bayer. Send in your questions on hypertension prevention and management. For more information, e-mail mail.info@bayer.com.)

** http://www.besthcare/HEARTFAILURE/Conditions/Arrhythmias/Abnormal-rhythm-Abnormal-heart-rhythm-SCM_002810_Article.jsp. Accessed August 1*

Accurately assessing age

DISCOVER

Maxine Santos Bañez

DO LIVES of other the song says, age isn't just a number, or determining the number of birthdays someone has celebrated can be difficult. From a purely physical perspective, various medical and scientific procedures and the number of jars and tubes from computers tagged as "anti-aging" can make it difficult to figure out a person's age. Also, similar to the myth that there are several dozen Eskimo words for "snow," people might employ a variety of approaches to discuss the number of years someone's been alive. For example, they might touch celebrities's age in terms of being either old enough or else young enough to do something or act in a certain way.

Recently, a team of American researchers described a novel way to determine a person's age—with the aid of brain scans. Apparently, like the rings on a tree, accumulations of brain scanning techniques can allow researchers to conduct a series of measurements on the structures of the brain, using that information to accurately determine a person's age.

"We have uncovered a 'developmental clock' of sorts within the brain," said Christos Davatzikos, a professor of neuroscience who supervised the research. "Age differences quite well...regardless of other kinds of differences that exist across individuals," said study first author Timothy Brown of the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine's Department.

To gauge the accuracy of this technique, the team worked with nearly 1,000 study participants between the ages of 3 years and 28 years. They scanned the brains of the volunteers and then came up with a model of brain development based on more than 200 markers known to change over time.

In much the same way that there are height and weight charts doctors can reference to assess a child's physical development, there are markers in the brain that can be used to chart its development from childhood onward. Brown and his colleagues said that despite physical or emotional appearances, the structure in one's brain can pinpoint age with more than 90 percent accuracy, suggesting there is a timeline involved and it cannot be altered.

These measurements and brain structures can play a role in brain-training brain activity later in life. A study released by British researchers back in May showed that the tissue structure in the brain that allowed nerves to connect to various parts of the brain plays a role in maintaining a sharp mind over the years.

Several researchers working on brain functions have shown that exercises such as solving puzzles or meditation can help people stave off conditions such as Alzheimer's disease in which their brain cells degrade and memories are lost. One such study was presented to Society August during the annual gathering of the American Psychological Association and showed that a computerized memory-online game had improved motor and language skills of participants compared to the members of a control group.

"The fact that we found a collection of brain regions that can accurately capture a person's chronological age means that brains developed, or not, at least to certain anatomical aspects of it, is more tightly controlled than we knew previously," said Brown.

The study by Brown and his colleagues was published Aug. 16 in the journal Current Biology.

E-mail the author at maxine@msn.com.

Solving the flooding problem

By Charlei E. Bulan

AS A CHILDREN teenager, I would often hike to follow a couple of creeks up to their respective sources. This was about 20 years ago and my place in South Cotabato City was a sparsely populated area dominated by foothills and grasslands.

Those sources are actually small, shallow freshwater springs, which I discovered later, feed the creeks and streams that connect to major rivers of Dlandit in Isulan and Simsiman City.

Sadly, portions of these creeks as well as the springs are now gone, bulldozed to give way to residential projects and public works.

It was there that I noticed the flooding. While not as bad as in some parts of Metro Manila, somehow they demonstrate what happens if natural flow of surface water towards the land is not taken into consideration.

Asian phenomenon

According to the World Bank, flooding is the most common of natural disasters and it is increasingly an Asian phenomenon considering that the seven most destructive floods of the past 10 years all occurred in Asia.

In the past 30 years, about 40 percent of flooding worldwide occurred in the continent while more than 90 percent of the global population exposed to flooding lives in Asia.

Giving the guideline titled "Cities and Flooding: A Guide to Integrate Urban Flood Risk Management for the 21st Century" the most effective way to manage flood risk is to take an integrated approach that combines both structural and non-structural measures. These include building drainage channels and floodways, urban greening such as wetlands and environmental buffers, creating flood-warning systems, and land use planning for flood avoidance.

Man-made causes

This is because, the most common man-made causes of flooding aside from deforestation are the expansion of farmlands and urban areas...are paddies, former swamps and other natural waterways were paved over to make way for factories, housing and other services, impeding the natural path of water runoff during the monsoon season.

While trees and other vegetation break the momentum of rain and could help reduce surface erosion, this is not happening in urbanized areas where there is an abundance of impervious cover or hard surfaces that do not allow water to seep into the soil such as rooftops, driveways and streets.

In urbanized areas, rain pours more quickly off of city and suburban landscapes, which have high levels of impervious cover. In fact, over one-half of all rain becomes surface runoff, and deep infiltration is only a fraction of what it was naturally.

Spillway

In a proposal urban planner Felino Palafox Jr. have been forwarding to every administration since Marcos times, he urged the immediate construction of spillways. These are basically Boulevard Cory. The Pandacaqui spillway area to allow the Laguna de Bay to directly flow in Manila Bay instead of having to pass by the already clogged Pasig River. Jac it has, Pandacaqui is the narrowest area between Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay).

Members of the subdivision and Housing Developers Associations have also shared the way they plan and develop their projects as ARDA president Paul Tanchi explained they now also include a 50-to-100-year flooding histories of the project area.

"From the existing developments of our members are being reviewed to check drainage lines if they need clearing and widening," said Tanchi.

Pharma Properties president and chief executive officer Wells Uy related that most homebuyers are now considering living in vertical developments. Condominiums as they offer greater protection against flooding.

However, Uy said, even project they make employ design that is more elevated than the highest recorded water level in the neighborhood area.

FOR lack of a friend or relative willing to share his abode, any available space is made habitable.

It takes more than a village

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Author/ Korespondent Jasmin Soo

BY 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 25 of this declaration states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing ..."

The sad truth is that in this nation, we are nowhere near that "adequate" standard of living. As a third world country, we are individuals standard of living depends largely on his personal income and not on the services provided by the government. Some of these basic services remain underfunded because the funds have either been diverted to some other "priority" project, or have gone into some swamp affiliated pocket, whose standard of living I imagine, could even well be public-spiral Democracy.

Standard of living is often defined by the quality of one's physical surroundings and material comforts. But in even get to that point, a human being will first satisfy his more basic needs of food and clothing which we usually do not ask adequate shelter—a prerequisite to stability and a sense of permanence. Without any shelter, a person will always be in a state of restless and unrest, spending whatever meager earnings on the rent of moving about. Such is the case of the homeless that roam the streets.

Illegal settlements

This is one of the reasons we are plagued with illegal settlements in practically every nook and cranny of the metropolis. People flock in from the provinces with big dreams, hoping to find jobs, get settled and start a life in the city. But with no money in hand, no place to stay and very few, if any, friends are shunned too soon since finding a job is not easy and a well-paying one is almost impossible for those with very little education. Thus, for lack of a friend or relative willing to share his abode, any available space is made habitable: creek sides, riverbanks and even the sidewalks of bridges and flyovers.

Although government has established relocation villages in suburban areas, people choose to stay where they are near comfortable, easy, but not necessarily defined by the physical aspect of their shelter, but rather, by the overall quality of life they can experience—all these is consideration of the emotional and psycho-social needs which are as important as, if not more than, the obvious physical ones.

The immediate neighborhood, village community, or persons living and sharing the abode, also contribute to the quality of life within the shelter itself. It has always been in our nature to receive support from our families, relatives, close friends and neighbors, as they are constant pastors, guardians and caregivers in our tender formative. Moving away from a support system can diminish a family or individual. In a community way it's still a layout, has quite that contributes to the dynamics of a family and to community.

But having a community too locked in together can be detrimental to one's privacy. The lack of privacy, both physical and psychological, can steal that sense of family and take control of one's private affairs. Meddling relatives or neighbors can ruin the foundation of a family's relationship, exposing children most especially, to unbelievable behavior that one has no control over. The existence of the peeping Tom, the molesting uncle, the loud and bad mouthed mother, the drug-pushing bully next door, and that mother of a dozen children incessantly trying to borrow money just to be able to feed her brood—are all realities that are present in a high-density community.

Inadequate standard of living

I was stationed in the Quezon Hall area near the Narvalan Bridge), the narrow of the dead-end can prevents whose children can around 10 kids, with one particular child running about without clothes on, and with his feces flowing down his legs, a diagnosed neighbor washed the prime Tom for from "poorly" but didn't look after the child. The kids boy continued to run around and play.

In communities constantly exposed to an inadequate standard of living, there grows a kind of indifference or nonchalance to poverty. One either succumbs or accepts the dignity of a child or even a grown human being. It's a village of cluttered homes noisy by lacking of water and sewage system, planned with limited community centers and play spaces, and a lack of a reasonable degree of privacy in this kind tolerance acceptable?

As these tolerated settlers who have to find their home in the city only to be relocated to some village by the fringes of the metro, let us not forget that "health and well-being" are critical elements for an "adequate" standard of living. What's more that is found within the perimeter walls of a modest family—in a setting that establishes values and sets the backdrop for the development of human beings into productive, law-abiding and God-loving individuals. It is easier to provide shelter than to provide a proper home and environment for harnessing the human spirit. It certainly takes more than a village.

Contact the author through designdimensions@inbox.ph or through our Asiacom Developer Facebook account.

SHDA to unveil housing industry roadmap in Davao

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association in partnership with key housing agencies that include the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., will be holding the 2013 National Housing Convention at Insular Hotel in Davao from Sept. 27 to 28.

This year's convention will use the launch of the housing industry roadmap, followed by discussions pertaining to its impact on the industry as it helps developers craft their strategies in cooperation with all the concerned government agencies and private partner institutions.

Leaders of the country's housing agencies will gather to discuss industry projections that go all the way to 2030. Led by Vice President Jejomar Binay, who is also HUDCC chair, and Sen. Pia Cayetano "Bong-bong" Marcos, chair of the Senate committee on local governments, will be the keynote presentation of the analysis of data that led to the formulation of the roadmap.

The symposium continues the success of last year's convention, which saw government agencies forging partnerships and committing cooperation to streamline the processing of licenses and permits, addressing bottlenecks in processing housing delivery and assisting implementing rules for areas such as certified housing compliance.

But to provide additional insights are other departments that include the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), and Land Registration Authority (LRA), as well as private partners as associations such as the Realty Association of the Philippines (REAP).

Also in attendance is Davao Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.

SHDA pursues its advocacy of providing decent housing for Filipinos by assisting all registered subdivision and housing developers nationwide and promoting the highest standard of professionalism.

Megacities have no other way . . .

From page B4-1

invisible energy and have been investing in energy-efficient buildings, like in the Philippines.

Much however, needs to be done, including the development and mainstreaming of new green technologies.

Early examples are waste-to-energy conversion plants, as in the Philippines and Thailand, or "smart" electric grids.

"Green urban policy must be adapted to each's own and unique set-based's policies, which will be driven by more mega and satellite cities. In addition, the green urbanization process must protect the urban poor to ensure that the growth is inclusive and sustainable," the ADB added.

4 factors that drive PH property sector

By Joel V. Miguel

LIKE OTHER Asian markets, the Philippines continues to defy the downward pull of developed economies which are still reeling from the debilitating effects of the global financial crisis.

It has also maintained its euro-capital flow and among emerging markets in the Asia Pacific region. It exhibited the highest annual growth rate so far.

With improved economic prospects, both foreign and local investors have begun to find enormous value for their investments. And one sector that is benefiting from this is the real estate industry.

In the 6th Philippine Real Estate Festival with the theme "Philippine Real Estate: Opportunities for Foreign and Local Investors" held recently at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, the event's opening plenary session discussed the Philippines as a prime real estate haven for both local and foreign investors. Panelists included Hon. President Jejomar C. Binay, then concurrent chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council; Rep. Rodolfo Valencia and lawyer Miguel Ibarra, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The session touched on key factors why the country has become a real estate haven.

Emerging realty trends

Price Waterhouse Coopers and the Urban Land Institute (PWC-ULI) recognize the Philippines as a fast-emerging market. Under the new administration, the Philippines has become more politically stable and there are business chats in the past. It has been restored from the "do not touch list" and there is now a growing interest in engaging to the real estate business in the Philippines.

Binay, in his keynote speech, said investors started to see the Philippines as "viable and with minimum risks." Based on the Prudential Real Estate Investors research in February of this year, the growth seems both a combination of factors that, economic growth is projected to increase at a faster rate in Asia than in other regions, and second, the relative wealth of Asian countries will improve.

"As the country's population approaches 100 million, a consumer-based economy is emerging with all the needs and wants of the real estate industry to support it—goods from each year as long as the demand outpaces the supply the real-estate industry will continue to experience growth," Binay said.

Here are the four factors that drive the property sector in the country:

1 Political stability. This is a basic requirement in promoting investor confidence. And foreign direct investment (FDI) has started to flow toward again as companies discover attractive investment options in the country.

The commercial real estate market particularly Philippine Economic Zone Authority or as they are called Buildings I but now is categorized as transparent in this. Key locations like the Subic Clark Economic Corridor, Bonifacio Global City Quezon City Ortigas, Bay Area, Alabang, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod and major tourist destinations like Boracay and Palawan will see major development because of the influx of investments.

2 Growth in the BPO sector. The latest PWC-ULI report declared that the Philippines has overtaken India as the largest supplier of call-center services in the world. This sector now employs about 600,000 and is expected to hit the 1 million mark by 2016, according to investment bank CLSA, the BPO sector is currently responsible for 60 percent of office takeup in the country. The takeup continues to be strong in 1.7 thirty million BPO facilities leases.

It has also maintained its euro-capital flow and among emerging markets in the Asia Pacific region. It exhibited the highest annual growth rate so far.

3 Overseas Filipino workers. They not only help keep the country's economy afloat, they also continue to play a major role in fueling the growth of the real estate market. Last year, our country was considered a hot spot for real estate due to the growth in the market brought about by the influx of OFW remittances and their desire to acquire real estate to their home country. The increase in the country's population and the migration from rural areas to urban areas has also allowed for more real estate development both for residential and commercial purposes.

4 Housing. The biggest opportunity for growth in the property sector is in housing. At the end of 2010, it is said that the backlog of some 3.6-million units, and as a direct effect of population growth, this number is projected to rise to 5.7 million by 2016.

Though a total of 200,140 units were provided by various government shelter agencies and the private sector from July 2010 to July 2011, a total of 1,821,403 percent or about 127,458 belong to the low-income group, it's still a long way to go to meet the backlog.

To help members to pursue home ownership that would spur development in the sector, the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig) recently doubled to lower its interest rates for the low-income group from 6 to 4.5 percent.

The housing agency also intensified its campaign on the importance of employers and employees as fund members and as more OFWs were brought into the fund, their membership substantially increased from 1.2 million in 2011 to 3.022 million as of the first quarter of 2013.

In 2013, the Pag-Ibig Fund extended P51.3 billion in real estate financing, or the construction or acquisition of 46,208 housing units by members. Since July 2010, it provided a total of P1.2 billion in loan for the construction or purchase of 99,372 housing units.

The National Housing Authority meanwhile, has provided housing and socio-tenure to almost 80,000 families. One of its programs, the AFP-PNP housing program, has provided 22,805 housing units to date since it is now on its second phase and is expected to generate 33,200 house and lot packages not only for soldiers and policemen nationwide but also firemen and jail guards.

The NHA is also embarking on a P1.8 billion program annually to provide primarily medium-rise housing in informal settlements to ensure the program's sustainability.

The Social Housing Finance Corp., which implements the community mortgage program (CMP), has released P1.29 billion in CMP loans that give tenure security to 20,876 informal settler families (ISFs) during the period of July 2012 to June 2013—since the program's implementation in 1989, CMP's highest annual number of ISF beneficiaries is 15,875 was achieved in 2011.

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Pueblo de Oro PAMPANGA

Pueblo de Oro Pampanga wishes to extend sympathy to all Kampampangans affected by the recent flooding in the area.

To Pueblo de Oro's buyers, investors and stakeholders, all of Pampanga's project sites remained flood-free throughout the duration of the calamity. Homeowners residing in respective villages are safe and sound.

For those who wish to visit and inspect the site, all access roads, including Pasakalan/Lazatin Avenue, Ford-OG Road Sampaloc-Mac Arthur Hi-way and Del Carmen roads are passable.

People who like this

Moses P. Tayag

Leon Siow Kalingit
Singapore, Singapore

Robin David

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Myla Cordova Pascual Sana makalipat na po kami kahit. Kawawa kc family kc sa quiapo, lubog talaga buong bahay namin...
8 August at 21:02

Darbie Melchor D Sevilla , super like, yan ang lunas na mga Poor !
8 August at 17:57 · 1

James Silvestre wow
8 August at 10:01 · 1

Conanon Balaquit Thank you for the information! That's a PLUS FEATURE for Pueblo de Oro Caren. Pampa.
7 August at 05:44 · 1

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Travel

CHICKEN curry

Once in a Blue Elephant

Filipinos tend to say 'thigh' when we mean 'Thai'. (Silent 'h')... But that was not what the author went there to learn

Text and photos by Ian Pilapala
Contributor

RIDING the Bangkok Skytrain, I had seen it on many occasions: a lovely structure with delicately decorated awnings, obviously from a different age. I would eventually find out that it housed a well-known institution—the Blue Elephant Cooking School.

I resolved to enroll in a class just to experience studying in such distinguished premises.

I, like many Filipinos, have long been familiar with Thai food. Yet, we are blissfully unaware that we don't pronounce the word "Thai" quite correctly.

The point was made clear to me one day on the beach with a group of friends from different parts of the world. When the conversation turned to where we would go for dinner that evening, I piped up: "I think that I would like some 'thai.'"

Everyone laughed. I was initially puzzled until a physician from Boston called out: "It wouldn't mind having some sex myself!"

It was only then that I understood what has always been a source of amusement for others: Filipinos tend to say "thigh" when we mean "Thai". Apparently, the "h" in the latter is supposed to be silent.

Starter kit

The other issue that is often raised is why Thai food is so popular all over the planet while our own cuisine is not.

Numerous theories have been advanced to account for this. Someone even enabled that the Thai governments will provide potential restaurant owners with a starter kit. I have never verified this but the prospect is certainly intriguing: how to run a Thai cafe all in one box!

With so many more questions to resolve, I decided to grab the bull by the horn—or should I say by the thigh? The next time I was on vacation in Bangkok, I emailed applications to a morning course at the Blue Elephant. I was promptly accepted.

On the appointed day, I took the Skytrain to my school, getting off at the Surasak station. Entering the grounds, I

SINGLE >>

COOKING stations

Once in a Blue Elephant

From page C1

new again the magnificent main building, its three elegant floors rising to the heavens, defying the surrounding skyscrapers.

It was almost inconceivable that there was a door in this thing in the beginning.

The book, "Heritage Houses of Thailand," recounts how the gorgeous structure, which had been scrapped by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, was the subject of a raging debate.

Some section wanted to tear it down, saying it blocked the view of office towers. Others were opined that the building was not in the Thai style anyway and, therefore, no great loss.

What this last argument by noted two how the edifice represented the blending of East and West, very much like the palaces of the Royal family.

Fortunately, the conservationists won the day, and I was given the pleasure of exploring this splendid survivor of a previous epoch.

My spin room main's hunting on floors of broad polished planks, planning furniture, and huge windows topped with lacy fretwork motifs. There was a late chocolate nook displaying a gallery of packaged mixes and sauces for sale.

I ascended the staircases to the upper floor where I was ushered into a real working room with paintings of boys blossoms on the wall as well as solution-of-mod furniture.

Outside was a large dining hall already set for lunch.

The building evidently housed many enterprises: a restaurant and bar, a cooking school, and a store for condiments.

What an incredibly productive way to reuse a heritage structure!

The school was on the top floor. Here we were given our introductory overview of the course.

As I looked around, I noted that, though it was a weekday, there were about 15 of us in the class. At roughly 3,000 pesos per student and learning to allow, most serious, calculating the total sale for a year created in a princely sum!

This just proves that, when properly utilized, historical buildings can help generate substantial income.

Our first activity would be a visit to the market. I found this quite refreshing—an inclination of the unapologetic gruffiness of the Thais have about the intrinsic charm of their own way of life. I wouldn't transfer one of our gastronomic gurus leading a church of statuesque through the teeming meat stalls of Negra Quiapo.

I was surprisingly impressed in first clue at the very corner of the entire commercial complex, was an enclosure containing a sacred shrine. Evidently, for the Thais, prayer was not isolated from shopping.

Cooking scents

The tour began with an introduction to the produce of the Siamese countryside. Much of what was being sold was quite familiar to me as we had them in the Philippines too.

My favorites were the green vegetables. I saw dark, verdant leaves jostling with frilly leaves made translucent by the sun. I breathed deeply the cooling scents of coriander and mint.

After the vegetables, it was time for the elements which added fire to Thai food. I learned that there were many types of fish sauce (and that extremely pungent, others larger and almost mild).

There was, as well, a variety of fish sauces from different parts of the country, each with its own distinct blend and resulting kick. I felt so thinking again about why it was that the cuisines of Thailand and the Philippines was mark with the same materials, but the former is more globally accepted.

ELEMENTS which bring the fire to Thai food—chili and fish sauce

As a special treat, we were brought to the market coffee stall. I watched, fascinated, as the precision-looking lady behind the counter measured her brew with an eloquent that would be the envy of any accomplished barista. Admittedly part of my fascination had to do with the fact that what she was using as a strainer looked like an old sock!

Back in the air-conditioned comforts of the school we were welcomed with mint, lightly savored towels, a most appreciated gesture. We were then briefed to the lecture room where a cheerful chef demonstrated how each item on our list was prepared.

We also received a schedule for the morning, a recipe book and an apron.

The dishes being showcased were quite straightforward to make. For example, shrimp cakes—one of my favorites ...were modernized from the soaking mote that a basic paste, eggs, and some chopped vegetables, are deep-fried.

After the lecture, we trooped to the cooking room which consisted of 12 stations, each one furnished with a gas range as well as a counter stocked with ingredients.

Given the five minutes we were allowed, I could barely manage to throw the tasty bits in to my pan and begin sautéing. The kitchen instructors had to constantly come to my rescue.

Plus a mixture of abbreviated English and sign language, I was politely but firmly informed that I had to be more alert if my career as a Thai chef were to ever take off.

Later, however, things took a more pleasant turn. I opted to watch serenely as the instructors did all the culinary exertions for me!

By noon we were done. After we had bedecked up, we went to the dining room where the results of our labors had been laid out on the table. It turned out that everything I had produced tasted a little like.

Clearly, there was more to Thai cooking than what had just been explained.

Gracious vintage

Of course, what was lacking in my debut was no fault of the school. For food is an art. Each one must fashion her own version with a personal selection of spices and ingredients. There was still much for me to learn.

My Blue Elephant experience did give me some insights into the debate on why Thai, and not Filipino, I saw that part of the answer had to do with the Thais' understanding that what is truly attractive to a global audience are simplicity and freshness, not elaborate sauces nor complicated techniques.

This understanding accounts for the emphasis on vegetable dishes largely absent from Philippine menus.

The gracious vintage setting of our cooking school also made it clear that cuisine and heritage were hand and hand. For it is here, in the kitchen itself, where all begin to enhance the flavors of every spoonful.

Send all comments and questions to mcmanuel@gmail.com

Early R&R—on a not-so-slow boat to Boracay

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

If YOU are going to Boracay and have time to spare—when the monsoons is no longer dumping tons of rain all over the archipelago, of course—you may want to consider taking a not-so-slow boat to get there. It and begin the "rest" part of your much-needed R&R. You and remember, even before you get to the popular holiday destination.

With all the aggravation created by flying these days...long queues at check-in counters, waiting at departure areas that is sometimes even longer than the flight itself, overbooking that can get you bumped off, delays or cancellations—there is every good reason to find other modes of transport to get to Boracay and other destinations in the Philippine archipelago.

After all, you need to get yourself in the right mood to make the most of your time for rest, relaxation and recreation. Stressing yourself over inconvenient, even uncertain, flight schedules is definitely no way to start a holiday.

The ultimate right "boats" leisurely trip to Boracay on a SuperCat, a 30-meter fast ferry that can accommodate 350 passengers and 40 tons of cargo. Powered by two 2,000-horsepower engines, it can cruise at speeds of 30 knots.

BOARDING at Cagayan de Oro trip back to Batangas

A CEBUANO leaving Cebu allows passengers to have their meals in their cabin the right, at one of the country's many cities 1,000 islands

STEPHEN Tagud

Operated by 2GO Travel, the ferry plies the route between Batangas City in Batangas and Caticlan in Malay, Aklan, the gateway to Boracay. Other ports of call are Iloilo City and Cebu City in the Visayas and Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao.

Fares are competitive on seatings, or individuals, are easy to find, something suitable to their needs and their budgets as 2GO ships. Even passengers of vehicles that take the 2GO Ro-Ro ships get their own berths so they too sleep in comfort without paying extra, as sleeping amenities are already included in their ticket fares.

If your destination is the virtual island of Boracay where recreation can be as exhausting as being back at work with all the interesting activities you can do—jet skiing, jasters (undies) sailing, banana boat rides, bar hopping, among others—traveling on the 2GO ships, one of them captained by Eugenio Badoza with Alan Pogdilan as his chief steward manager, will let you get all the rest and sleep you need and for overnight trips, individuals are given comfortable bunk beds in their cabins.

Families or companies on outings, or individuals, are sure to find something suitable to their needs and their budgets as 2GO ships. Even passengers of vehicles that take the 2GO Ro-Ro ships get their own berths so they too sleep in comfort without paying extra, as sleeping amenities are already included in their ticket fares.

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Entertainment scenery

And, if you travel in the daytime, you get to enjoy the scenery—some of the country's most diverse. 7,000 islands. 2GO has two ships plying the Batangas-Caticlan, Aklan route (passengers transfer to ferry boats to get to Boracay). You can leave Luzon in the evening and reach sun on your sleep and take the glorious sunset-chip to enjoy the sights, on other ventures.

Breath from your mind images of commercialized days where people are packed like sardines. On a 2GO ship, there is plenty of room so you do not have to worry about anybody crowding you or crowding your space. Lavish accommodations of passengers and cargo weights are strictly enforced.

Ideal for kids

For young kids, it is an ideal way to travel as they do not have to be confined to their seats, even if only for a short period of time. They can run around freely and safely even without constant parental supervision, as staff and crew members are always nearby to ensure everyone's safety and security.

Tagud, who worked in some top hotels abroad, says, "Many think good it is to make traveling fun and comfortable for all passengers." Said that includes children. He says, on smaller boats, parents are lost children's books and other reading materials and board games to keep kids occupied if playing and watching television aren't available.

"The bigger ships that travel longer distances like those going to Mindanao), are have playrooms. Kids can even listen to stories," he says.

Tagud says 2GO, which currently operates 19 ships including freight vessels and the Supercat ferry, service between Cebu and Iloilo, regularly "organizes" cruises for groups like schools and companies. Travelers can take a slight detour and see some other place before proceeding to their destinations.

But he hopes to have real cruises around the Philippines soon to let travelers really enjoy the various destinations in the archipelago and put a rip along the country's unusual highway on every Filipino's must-do list.

Seamless transfers

Tagud says they also make transfer from sea to land, including hotel, as seamless as possible by offering travel packages that cover port transfers (the company can arrange transport to and from Batangas port for those starting from Metro Manila) and even hotel accommodations.

In Boracay, the company has partnered with Hotel La Carmela, located so close to the beach, right where the action on the resort island is.

Visit www.2GO.com.ph for group rates, call tel. 528(7942 3144777 local 4608/4642. The 2GO Group, Inc., a Negros Navigation company, has offices at Times Plaza Building on United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila, tel. 5548777.

Hot springs, heritage towns, 'tatami' hotels—Chubu's many charms

Central Japan's lush greenery, mountain views, well-preserved history and warm hospitality will take your breath away

QUANTITAT STRONG
The dual-steel roof is designed to withstand heavy snowfall.

REFRESHING NOOK
The river-filled Nakasu Ryugen hotel's dining area.

Text and photos by Tatin Yang
Contributor

MOST of the stories I've heard about Japan were about Tokyo and Osaka, which my dad's frequents. But, as part of Cebu Pacific Airlines' 1st anniversary tour of Nagoya and the prefectures of central Japan, I was able to experience the quainter side of Japan, replete with verdant greens as far as the eye could see, and beautifully preserved alongside the wide, concrete highways and supermarts.

At Shirakawa-go, just a little past Takayama, lies a historic village, a Unesco World Heritage site, known for its thatched roofs made of straw grass. Though the material is thinner than bamboo, the roofs are strong and sturdy enough to withstand heavy snowfalls in winter.

Visitors are encouraged to visit during winter, when the snow blankets the roofs and the twinkling lights make for a fantastic sight, although if you aren't walking into a snow globe.

While the village is well-preserved, it is also a residential area for roughly 3,000 people, with private houses available for rent into who like to stay a bit and experience how it is to live in a gassho-zukuri (prayer hands" roof-constructed style house.

'Onsen'

After our village tour, we headed off east to stay the night in Takaoka-no-yu, a Japanese style hotel (no beds, only a futon laid out on a tatami floor) known for its huge "onsen" (hot springs). The onsen is very popular among the Japanese.

Because Japan's geography is filled with rivers, mountains and an active volcano, the country is a widespread feature all over the country.

The location of Takaoka-no-yu allows its hot springs to have access straight from the mountains and the rivers. The onsens are known for their curative properties (visitors are even encouraged to drink the water). If you plan to spend a couple of nights here, make sure to bring home bottles of the mineral water spring, which helps refresh and relieve the skin.

Shirahotaka Ropeway

From experiencing the water from underneath, you can also experience the view from top high via The Shirahotaka Ropeway. The 45-year old lift is already known as the only ropeway in Japan to have a double-decker gondola.

The crazy 2,356-meter ascent will take you to the spectacular Observation Deck, which offers a 360-degrees view of the snow-capped mountains. The view is so awesome that it has earned a two-star rating in the Michelin Green Guide Japan.

The Ropeway is operational throughout Japan's four seasons, so you can check out the view whenever you're there (make sure to check the weather reports by the two days, though). Before going up the stairs to the deck, make sure to stop by the souvenir shop and get some postcards you can send family and friends back home (the deck has a bright red mailbox for you to drop off your postcards).

From the Shirahotaka Ropeway, we took a side trip to the Hakuo Kanger Hotel, a small boutique hotel tucked in among the mountain views. The hotel has an outdoor dining deck overlooking the mountains. It's an ideal secluded spot for honeymooners or those looking for a quiet respite.

Takayama

Takayama, where we stayed next, is home to Hida beef and a special type of ramen noodles, which are thinner and absorbs more broth flavor, allowing for a clean tasting, comforting bowl of ramen.

Hida beef, which has perfect marbling and great texture, is a contender for the most popular Kobe beef. Enjoy the beef on its own, which you can grill on a small skillet on your table or enjoy it a bit put with vegetables and noodles. All you need to add is the sprinkle of salt to bring out the exquisite flavor of the beef. You can really see of the trip's highlights, along with fresh, creamy yogurt from Hida's cows.

Gujo City

Heading down south, we stopped at Gujo with its clean waterways, brimming along the canals are huge, koi carp, and along their waterways are homes where you can drop a coin and receive a packet of fish food to feed the hungry, eager fish (I've never seen fish act like hyper puppies jumping for treats the water).

The attractions of Gujo are very kid-friendly from the food replica factory to the dinosaur park, where kids can interact with robotic dinosaurs (think Jurassic Park, but you won't get eaten). Japanese curry lovers can enjoy Gujo's version of the curry with its specialty solid beer croquette, paired with thick slices of fresh Gujo ham.

Inuyama City

Located further south is Inuyama City home to the oldest wooden castle in Japan. The climb up the three-story castle is very steep, but the view from the top is worth it (make sure to put your camera on panoramic mode!). Architecture buffs will marvel at how the stone walls were made and how they've survived, given that no bonding material was used. The stones were simply stacked together like a puzzle.

Also located in Inuyama is the Meiji-mura museum, where 60 buildings from the original Meiji period were brought and restored. Here you can see how fans were first in Japan with an obvious Western influence. Another treat for architecture lovers, the museum is home to the reconstructed Imperial hotel (which lobby (originally from Tokyo), which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright).

Gamagori

As we made our way back to Nagoya, our last stop was Gamagori, located along the coast of Mikawa Bay which opens up to the Pacific Ocean. Gamagori is a seaside resort with hotels overlooking the gorgeous bay (but of the water amenities, such as sailing.

Legoland is also a kid-friendly place to visit, as it is the location of a Sarasa theme park. The city is also known for its many, public shrity venues, tipped as idyllic day exploring the coast and heading to Gamagori Rose park, where you can experience splashing pool seat that from the boardwalk, it doesn't get any fresher than that.

Enjoy fresh seafood and lobster for dinner (prepared cooked on your). Be sealed our Gamagori visit at Okazaki castle, where we reunited a few reenactments of a battle between shogun warriors (a must-kids will love!).

The castle is also home to the Tokugawa Shogun museum, where visitors can reconstruct decorations illustrating the lord-lot of rule gone by are on display. You can also dress up like a shogun by the costume area, complete with weaponry for an authentic experience.

Back in Nagoya

We ended our Chubu tour back at Nagoya, where we still had time to visit the Nagoya TV tower, to see the city in its full glory as well as do some shopping at the department stores. Car enthusiasts will want to see the Toyota Automobile Museum, a vital part of Japanese history.

Though we had five whole days to explore Chubu, central Japan is so vast that you can come back year after year only to find something new to discover.

It may have been my first time to visit, but I realize now that all the stories about Japan and its beauty were not an exaggeration. They are truly something else. All it takes is one visit to make you fall in love and become a frequent visitor.

HOT SPRINGS C3

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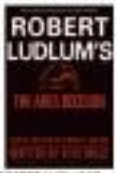

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Hot springs, heritage towns, 'tatami' hotels . . .

From page B1

Getting There

1. Fly Cebu

If you want to backpack Japan thoroughly, take Cebu Airlines, which flies to both Nagoya and Narita, don't worry-easy to land in Nagoya and explore central Japan. Since you've had your fill of culture, you can hop on the Shinkansen, Japan's bullet train (an experience in itself), and arrive in Tokyo. Take there or few nights and then fly back home via Narita Airport.

Cebu's convenient Business Class Elite section now has full-recline flatbed seats with special meals designed by Top Chef regular guest judge Michelle Bernstein. Economy Class gets a boost, too, with extra-thick economy Comfort seats featuring more legroom, more recline and early boarding.

It was my first time to fly with Cebu via the new Business Class seats and I really loved the experience. The flight attendants were warm and attentive, the food was great and the in-flight entertainment was so good I didn't even bring out my iPad.

These enticing hard flights need not worry about running out of gadget juice. Cebu's seats are equipped with chargers (this alone made me like them), and some long-haul flights even offer in-flight Wi-Fi! The flatbed seat coupled with the great entertainment selection made me feel like I was in a cozy cocoon. It was my first time to watch In Bruges inside a plane after having binged.

Shoppers would also want to fly their new Class Elite if only for the two-bagful (10kg, each baggage allowance.

2. Combine Airpass

Four gateways to central Japan within Centrair airport in Nagoya. Indeed "New Regional Airport" in short by Skyline but two consecutive years, the airport has a concert hall and the Sky Deck, a 200-meter-long runway deck overlooking depart-ing planes and the sunset. It's a great spot to shoot urban metropolises and take in the sights while waiting for your flight to de-part.

3. Get a travel agent

Online deals can be tempting, but if you want to explore central Japan with ease and comfort, booking a travel agency set up shop for you and your companions may be the best idea, especially in a country where the language barrier is enormous.

Not only can they send a representative to accompany you, you'll be sure that some of your requests and tips! be translated. While Japan's railway system is fantastic anywhere, bigger people on a tight schedule will be able to explore more efficiently with a chartered bus.

Aside from that, most tourist passes for transportations and attractions, e.g. the JR Rail Pass, which gives you a seven-day unlimited pass for trains, are sold through accredited travel agencies.

Some agencies (entry: Adam's Express Travel-527-2810), Budget Travel & Tours, Inc. (525-2430), Universal Holidays, Inc. (818-2882) and Vacation Club Holidays (241-1488).

4. Bring a phrasebook—digital or otherwise

While the language barrier can be frustrating, the people of Japan are so patient, warm and welcoming enough that they will make the effort to understand you and assist you your request (if possible).

Make communication easier by packing apa phrasebook, digital or otherwise. Japanese bookstores have comic-based inquisitive books, where all you need to do is point at a phrase from the book for non-English speaking folk to understand what you want to say.

Your central Japan to-do list:

Going to Osaka? Put these in your itinerary.

1. Stay in a ryokan.

Like sandwiches, fries and rice, Japanese lodging is synonymous with Japan. Though, like most things, they elevate-pot-pourri to an art form and will brush-in exquisite passageway smoke room to bring an extra staircase to preserve the gorgeous cast Magnol. Bring home cream by Sweden (Wow crackers), chewy mochi or buttery cookies and pastries.

2. Visit a festival

Time your holiday to coincide with a town festival, to see giant, intricate floats or traditional Japanese dress.

3. Shop at the supermarket

Shopping as a big Japanese experience for tourists of two. Not only will you see nifty gadgets for cleaning house or stacking things, you can also partake of the many Japanese snacks, some in quirky flavors (our Pinoy cuttlefish sniped out the green tea Kitkat tasty) like coffee and rice, which tutter from home with appropriate as gifts.

and to-bleed your fellow bushers.

Bathing in onsens is an experience not to be missed, and if you prefer some to have your companions see your bits and pieces, make sure to set up a bathing schedule (public baths open early and close late).

1. Sweet-shred heat

Japanese soft-serve ice cream is everywhere, so there's no excuse not to pick up some and start licking. Go for the matcha-mint "tastes" (vanilla-ice-ref-melting green tea) flavor.

6. Onsenjoy

The term onsen may not be familiar, but this concept is very dear to Filipinos, too. What the Japanese call "onsenjoy", we call "pakikibabad ng" to Japan. Though, like most things, they elevate-pot-pourri to an art form and will brush-in exquisite passageway smoke room to bring an extra staircase to preserve the gorgeous cast Magnol. Bring home cream by Sweden (Wow crackers), chewy mochi or buttery cookies and pastries.

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BELLEVUE HOTEL RAINY DAY PROMO

THE: owners, The Bellevue Hotel invites onsenjoy to celebrate Rainy Day Promo. Book a Deluxe Room for an overnight stay at the hotel's main wing for P5,000 net. Avail of the 1+1 Promo where you can reserve two rooms for an overnight stay or one room for two consecutive nights at P5,000 net. As more room amenities stay weight at the Tower Wing for just P3,200 net for an overnight stay in a Deluxe Room or two rooms both for an overnight stay or one room for two consecutive nights at P6,000 net. Both packages come with buffet breakfast for two, daily shuttle service to nearby establishments, free bottles of water replenished daily, free use of swimming pool and gym facilities, wireless broadband internet access, welcome fruit platter, welcome drinks at the Vue Bar, 20 percent discount at Café Mode, local newspaper and a free umbrella. Room only rates (breakfast not included) are also available at P4,000 net for an overnight stay in a Deluxe Room in the Main Wing or P4,500 net at the Tower Wing. Check-in time is at 12 noon, late check-out at 3 p.m. (subject to availability). All rates are inclusive of 12-percent VAT and 10-percent service charge. Call tel. 8584161, e-mail info@thebellevue.com, and visit their website at www.thebellevue.com.

super LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Selection Editor Pam Pastor

SUPER BUNCHEETTES Siwon and Donghae of Super Junior are all smiles after the one-on-one interview at The Peninsula Manila

MARI MACALI

SUPER EXCLUSIVE

A Super date with 'SiHae'

By Angela V. Ignacio
Contributor

Super literally gets up close and personal with two of today's hottest K-pop idols (and lives to tell the tale)

I DON'T think I'd ever wished as hard for the ability to master a foreign language in five seconds flat. A few inches away from me, Super Junior hunk and newest Beach endorser Choi Siwon was bwelling my phone recorder close to his mouth, talking loudly in rapid-fire Korean while his bandmates doubled over in laughter.

Beside him, fellow endorser/hubby brother Lee Donghae looked as he moved as I was bewildered, his eli's features crinkled into a wry smile. I couldn't tell if the giggling female-to-sequence was trying to tell me to stop recording, but the good-natured DJ's little (explicit) grin on Siwon's face told me he was just teasing.

Naturally, my closet fangirl's heart skipped a beat. Or two. Language barrier notwithstanding, these boys were clearly having fun; admittedly, so was I. After all, what human female could resist the full force of their combined charm up close?

Rainy-weather, sunny smiles

Super recently got to spend time with the two idols from the phenomenal K-pop supergroup in a short exclusive interview at The Peninsula Manila, right before their scheduled fan event for Beach at the Trinoma Activity Center. Having just arrived to rainy Manila the day before, the tall,

A SUPER DE

SiHae in Trinoma:

One 'Super' screamfest

TWO DOLL 25,000 screaming fans. We're surprised Trinoma's roof hasn't been blown sky-high after the deafening chorus they'd raised during the press launch/fan event last Aug. 15. The sound erupted into shrieks every time Siwon and Donghae moved, smiled/waved, or even then, and everyone went ballistic. That party mush meant the fans were screaming screaming for a good 30 minutes or so.

Oh, it was happy, all right. Super crazy. But for the legions of diehard fans, it was super worth it.

SIWON! says the Filipino fans are "magands."

Our top 3 favorite moments from the 30-Hae mania:

#3. Fans going the extra mile. When it comes to their idols, fans would do anything. People bought P1,000 worth of Beach products just so they could join the raffle and be one of the 700 fans who were enrolled in good seats at the event. And because it was a school day, younger fans from all over the metro came straight from class and braved the raffle and the downpour just to see their favorite K-pop stars up close.

#2. Cute accents and language barriers. The two answered mostly in Korean during the Q&A portion of the event, but they gamely used their hand at talking to English and Filipino with the fans as cues. "Hello, Philippines!" Siwon said, and the rest of his friendly greeting was drowned in the collective squealing. Donghae sent a little more hip-hop: "Wassup Philippines! My name is what?"

When asked what they thought of their fans, the two switched to Filipino. "Maganda," Siwon commented, grinning shyly while Donghae said with feeling, "Sumasim ko kayo." Then, they announced in unison: "Mahal ko kayo."

#1. We kinked a girl . . . and we liked it. If his role in the 2010 Korean drama "Oh! My Lady" was any indication, Siwon is obsessed with kids. But to witness it firsthand simply melted our hearts (among other things). During the short autograph-signing onstage, he face lit up when a little girl, hardly any taller than the table, stood timidly in front of him. He leaned over and planted a big kiss on the lucky kid's forehead, obtaining the highest-pitched shrieks of the night. Getting crazy jealous of a 6-year-old might be wrong on all counts, but not this time. Girls, me thinks he really would make a great dad. Feel free to dream away. Angela V. Ignacio

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LUPIN — BY JEAN HARA

PLUGGED BANDY — BY RYAN JUNCK

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE-O-MATIC — BY ELIZABETH HONGLED

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

KISO MACHINE — BY FRANK ARRIOLA

SEIN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TUNDRA — BY CHAD CARPENTER

HOROSCOPE

ELIZABETH DAVIS
THE KING CRABS SPEECH This is absolutely the perfect day to start a new project. Or, knowing Aquarius, it's just the perfect day to finish something and not start anything. Whether you're ambitious or indecisive, you can be productive as a partner and you often take the reactive approach when it comes to your projects. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success hinges on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your energy and enthusiasm is contagious today. Use it to your advantage. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Others are willing to help you. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might catch yourself in a state of flow today, especially involving electronics. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're feeling particularly social today. Use your charisma to your advantage. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're feeling particularly social today. Use your charisma to your advantage. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You feel intensely alive today. Anything you see and attempt will indeed work. Good expenditure of your time and energy. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You have a knack for finding out what you want to know. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) At times, a good situation can be ruined by your own carelessness. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You feel highly independent today. You will be opposed by those who feel insecure around you. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Sudden opportunities to travel might fall in your lap today. Similarly, chances to get further education or take a class might present themselves. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Clarity, positive, and terror from others, could arise your way today. Close your eyes, open. The following will benefit from the wealth and motivation of others today, however, your number of opponents will be vast.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Seek out interesting, fascinating people today. Involve yourself in the world. Your thinking about personal activities is very good today. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Unexpected circumstances might develop today. Be prepared for a change in your plans. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others. Your success depends on your ability to work well with others.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

			2	1	3			
1		7				6		4
		8				5		
	2						9	
		1		7		4		
	6						7	
		4				8		
6		3				1		7
			1	4	6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

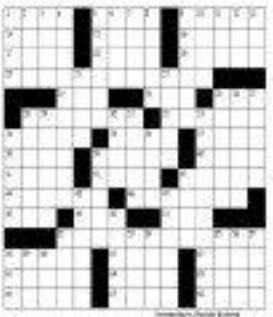
ACROSS

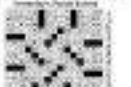
1. Completely involved
5. Cat
9. Chemistry
14. Ancient Greek city-state's main colonnaded walking area
15. Single
16. Ancient ground
17. Encouragement
18. Cosmetic specialties
19. Speech, courtroom
20. Bar accessories
21. Ms. Mary Tyler Moore, to Mr. Grant
23. Quarrel
24. Ancient scientific city
26. Oil or gas producer
29. Lion
31. Solo activity
32. Classroom transaction
33. Harvest
34. Sleep
35. Thermometer read...
37. Bringback
40. Bank
41. Church collections
42. Pieces of playground equipment
44. Weather
45. Slaughter
46. Dog
47. Tree
48. Hardware, with "and"
51. Lizard features
52. Wings
53. Cheating to be overdressed
54. Ancient Greek market
55. Woodworking craft
56. Lobbies
57. Ceremonies
58. Cuticle or callus

60. Newspaper
62. Oil output
63. Impressed
65. Actress Garbo

DOWN

1. Rocks
2. Pharaoh's graduation
3. Young salmon
4. Bees
5. Wintry frothy
6. Joins on
7. Small
8. Fit of mood
9. Chocolate's flavonoids
10. Western tribe
11. Nonsense
12. Dishonest
13. Undisciplined
21. Ignorant folk
22. Ballgames
25. Bandleader
26. Ms. Ryan, to Mr. Affleck
27. Ballgames
28. Ms. Ryan, to Mr. Affleck
30. Like a quest in a gathering
34. Ms. Ryan, to Mr. Affleck
36. Musical instrument
38. Musical notation
39. Movie Oscars
43. Like a book
44. Dangerous disorder
46. Blackmailer's demand
47. Comes to the ground
48. Ancient Greek market
49. Ms. Ryan, to Mr. Affleck
50. Ms. Ryan, to Mr. Affleck
51. Cast down look
52. Ancient Greek market
53. Stones





Bourne to dress

Assistant costume designer Candy Reyes on dressing up the stars of 'The Bourne Legacy'

By Tobit Yang
Contributor

COSTUME designer Shay Cunliffe and the pink workers Lea Voisen aboard the Sabrina

CANDY (center) and the costume crew: at right, Candy photodouble Edward Morton.

JEREMY Renner and Edward Norton on the set.

PRODUCTION designer and stylist Candy Reyes is no stranger to long nights, burning diesel emissions and helping bring to life scenes for films, music videos and TV ads. It was only a matter of time before she ended up on the set of a Hollywood film. Candy tells Super how it was shopping for Rachel Weisz and working on the set of "The Bourne Legacy."

How did you end up working on the set as assistant costume designer?

The Cunliffes, costume designers Shay Cunliffe, sent an email asking for an assistant costume designer since she wasn't receiving with her current assistant. The people involved in the production of the Matrix big budget organized the interviews for me to submit a resumé. Shay interviewed me on Skype—a month later, she arrived from the Canadian shoot and we start working two weeks before filming.

What were you in charge of?

I basically helped Shay source/shop for costumes for all the main actors and supporting cast. I also helped with all the costume fittings with the actors. We also kept an eye on the background people's looks for the events, and helped dress them when needed. I also gave input on costumes for the local characters. A huge part of the work was also being really able to translate not just the language, but use culture as that it could be interpreted properly through wardrobe.

How long were you on the set?

About two weeks of prep work and five weeks of filming.

How was the first day on the set?

Very exciting! Everything was on a much bigger scale than I'm used to—big trailers, a huge crew, huge rentals. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to see these people work up close. Also, I got to realize what I've read in the script to film. I couldn't get enough of it.

What was a day of filming like?

It usually started very early in the morning, we were on set before 6 a.m. After a quick breakfast, we'd head straight for the wardrobe trash trailer...the costumers are all prepping what they need for the first scenes of the day. Then we head to set where everything is already set up, with initial blocking of lights, camera, etc before the actors are called in.

If it's a day with a lot of background, we do a walk through and check on all the extras—see if anyone stands out too much, watch out for any logos/characters on clothes that need replacing. We stay on set the whole morning, lunch and then we get some extras in the day, and head out to the malls where everything is set. The rest of the day is spent shopping for wardrobe or costume fittings. When we shoot at night, we're at the malls shopping and then heading to set for the night scenes.

So you had to keep buying clothes?

Yes! They all came straight from Rizzoli in Canada, so we had to buy stuff for the upcoming scenes. Another quick note: we weren't established yet. The local cast were only finalized here, so we only got their sizes just then. Also, since it was winter in the US and Canada at the time, they needed clothes appropriate for the weather, so it was best that we got them here.

What was the toughest part of the job?

Because I love every bit of my job, the only tough part was the hectic schedule—working at least 12 hours a day for six days a week, being on your feet all day—it takes a toll on your body! I'm also flying until I couldn't up counting out at my sister's place almost the entire time as I would be home on locations, and save on the extra travel time required.

I also had to divide my time between coming to set and finishing up my own projects and events, and would often end up running around everywhere all day until the mall closed.

What was the coolest part of the job?

Meeting Edward Norton! He flew in to shoot the flashback scene, which we shot at Intramuros. Going through costume fittings with just the actors, Shay and myself allowed me to interact with them in a more personal, "normal" way—they were all very down-to-earth, easy-going and humble, and we just chatted, talking about what they wanted to wear with me being able to give my personal opinion about it. That, and watching with the crew every day I think I was really more starstruck with the crew I was working with—they are academy award winners or directors from "Harry Potter," common from "Men in Black," "Fight Club," street guys from "Hill 4" and "The Dark Knight Rises"—the list goes on! I was really excited to wake up and go to work every day. There was just so much to absorb and learn.

What did the actors want to wear?

Nothing specific as clothes were mostly decided on by the costume designers/director, but they did have preferences after our fittings...things they are most comfortable wearing, or things they feel are more apt for their characters, or even clothes they felt looked better or more appropriate on them.

What would you and the actors talk about during fittings?

Mostly small talk about lifestyle, how they like it here, how work was so far. Edward came from a city before coming here, so we talked about that a lot, and I was asking for some travel tips to Laos. Particular discos wanderlist, of course, and how they felt about the clothes we got for them.

Where did you shop for them?

Everywhere! Springfield, R.O.X., Oakley, Levi's, Adores, but I also bought from department stores.

How was it working with Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton?

It felt surreal at first, coming to work every day seeing them on set, going through fittings with them and actually buying clothes for them. And they were in the movie! It's the same with Lou, but it felt weird making though the stalls looking for shoes for Rachel Weisz or a shirt for Edward Norton! I'm not sure I ever got used to that idea, even after five weeks—it was such a thrill!

Check out Candy's work at http://www.candyreyes.com.

What's new with Nelly Furtado?

A lot, actually: Her latest album, collaborations, an advocacy, and her own record label

Text and photos by Mark Sablan
Contributor

IT'S BEEN a while since we last heard from Nelly Furtado. Those who understand Spanish and hardcore fans would say 2009, when she released her first full-length Spanish album "Mi Plan." But for the rest of us, it was 2006, when she came out with her third album "Loose," her most successful to date, spawning hits like "Promiscuous," "Showtime," "All Good Things (Come to an End," and "Say It Right."

And now Nelly's back—with new stuff, of course. Set to release her fifth studio album "The Spirit Indestructible," Nelly has already released a couple of tracks from the upcoming album, "Big Hoops (Bigger the Better)" and the playful and highly-danceable "Spirit Indestructible."

Before performing with rap rock band Sum Gun Nelson in their first-ever performance in Manila last Aug. 16 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum, Nelly sat down with the press and shared all the new things she's been into, including her latest album.

When asked to describe her latest album, Nelly says "The Spirit Indestructible" is "a friendly punch in the face" because while the **message of the songs, and the whole album** itself is friendly and positive, the mood is very aggressive. "I wrote this album at a very inspired point in my life," she said. "I began writing these songs around the time I released my Spanish album 'Mi Plan.' I was in a great headspace, feeling refreshed and ready to really deliver in English again. This album is all about positivity, youth, good energy and the relentlessness of the spirit. I want people to live this music the way we did when we wrote it. I mean down to jumping, dance, scream, laugh, cry, love, and vibe to it, and to have it be very loud and energetic."

The pop star also admitted that she has (for the time being) retired a number of habits. "At the beginning of this album, I kind of called on the usual suspects," she revealed. But there a great thing happened. Some people suggested that I work with some "fresh blood" like Ambrosia, someone she's never worked with before. "So we got in the studio—and magic happened. Sometimes I get lucky!" Other people she worked with in this latest record include hip-hop songwriter/producer Salaam Remi and Dutch DJ Tiesto.

Nelly also wanted to take the time these years in the making, and in that span of time, she went through great experiences that affected her album.

She just signed on to be the ambassador of Free the Children, an organization where children help fellow children through education. "I think, and I don't mean to sound cliché, also want to affect, something that made her experiences sentimental you." I really experienced people celebrating and being joyful together for the first time. It really celebrated my belief in humanity. It reminded me who I am. That's why the album is so childlike. The experience also inspired the album's title track, which pays tribute to mankind's ability to overcome adversity by many things have happened that have inspired me to a lot of ways to believe in humanity."

Nelly also started her own label, Nelstar, which she considers good for her soul. She explained, "It was good to do things for real, by organic reasons. Help out other artists, want to give back to artists creatively, feed around their creative energy, too. I think I like that in myself also."

Motherhood has also contributed to how she worked on her latest album. Being a parent has made Nelly more mature and cautious about her professional career as a musician, and is even more conscientious of the things she does in front of her fans as a role model. Her little one (who is actually a quarter Filipino) is very musically inclined, just like her mother. Nelly proudly shared that her daughter plays the violin and the piano, and that she has an ear for music. Nelly would also like to have more children. Surprisingly, all the tracks that her daughter hobbied her head to while in the car made it to the album!

Despite all the changes and the new things, however, there is one thing that Nelly discovered hasn't changed. "I'm surprised I'm still so excited when I go to work," she revealed. "Every musical high note even if I've done this a million times—it's been 12 years—but it still feels fresh in me and that excitement is what I'm so grateful for in me."

The Spirit Indestructible, released by MCA Music, drops Sept. 17.

Nelly on Filipino food, fashion experiments, and turning down 'The Voice'

By Mark Sablan, Contributor

HERE are some interesting stuff we discovered about the "Promiscuous" singer during the press con:

She loves Filipino food.

Asked if she's tried some of our food, she replied, "Of course! Are you crazy?" As it turns out, she **knows two Filipino words.** Her favorites? "Pute. Sarap. Jaja." She also added "the most" [sarap] she's tried was at one of our friends, Inc." Although she forgot what they're called.

She's very experimental when it comes to fashion.

Inspired by her recent trip to Africa, she's been incorporating more tribal and afrocentric-themed stuff to her wardrobe. In fact, she was wearing a ribbed beaded bracelet during the press con. Nelly also describes her style as hippie meets prom queen meets flamenco dancer, so shared how there was a time she said

her friends dressed up like I'LL for a while. Now she's nailed prom with both boys and girls in the bathroom, and from she'd learned her feminine side, "I've played it all."

She was supposed to be on "The Voice."

She revealed: "They asked me to be on the original lineup of The Voice' but I turned it down at that time—I was busy recording my album. Now that I'm free, I'll take the chance to do something like that. I would like to maybe be guest judge for a day."

Talent searches aren't her favorite reality programs.

While she may have been offered time! "The Voice" a while back and actually think such shows are amazing, they're not her favorite reality shows. "I like the ones with people like Simon and stuff, the ones that are on the Nation Channel. I find those stuff interesting!"

A Super date with 'SiHae'

From page D1

good-looking pair (nicknamed "SiHae") had been mobbed by hordes of female fans who'd followed them from Seoul all the way to Incheon. The two-and-a-day trip marks Donghae's third, and Eunuk's fourth, visit to the country.

Sporting preppy blue and green color-block outfits and identically sunny smiles, Eunuk and Donghae were met by their spots in an afternoon gloomy afternoon. Snowstorm-marked jokes and did most of the talking in Korean, occasionally dipping into English during outtakes. Meanwhile, Donghae stayed quiet and concentrated on performing the Filipino phrases on the cheat sheet.

"Maraka ayo," Donghae insisted, then looked up at me for confirmation. "You mean Maraka ayo kayo?" I offered, carefully correcting myself as both boys followed suit. "Have you trying to say 'I love you' (for the fans)?" "Yes. High five!" He suddenly cheered in English, throwing laughter.

While here, they had also **also done several campaign for** Bench's new collection with renowned Los Angeles-based photographer Jen Schneider. Shoots described the shoot as "very fun." "Because this is the second time, it was very comfortable for us and for the photographer. We know each other, what we wanted and what Bench needed," he said.

When it comes to fashion, Shoots prefers to experiment with different styles than fit him. While he doesn't really go for colorful pieces, he likes wearing clothes that are comfortable and casual, two qualities that both guys see in—and love about—Seoul's preppy "Beach clothes feel very comfortable and the concept was also free ... And we like to wear comfortable clothes, so we were very happy when Bench gave us this concept."

"I like the style I'm wearing right now; it looks very casual and modern," Donghae added, pointing at his blue, green and black ensemble. In fact, he even asked Bench to give them a few clothes from the shoot so they can give it to the elves for per Junior boys back home. Sweet.

Next visit?

Because of their tight schedule, Donghae and Eunuk didn't get a chance to explore the Philippines during their visit. Now next time I come to the Philippines, I want to stay at The Peninsula Inn. I like the bed," drawn quipped with a laugh.

Of course, that "next visit" wouldn't largely depend on the fans, as implied in an earnest message from the two. "First of all, thank you to all the fans who wanted Super Junior to be Bench presenters. Also, don't forget to give your love and support to Super Junior so we can work with Bench for a long time."

After the fan event, the two flew back to South Korea with sweet smiling tweets for their boys (@princelelouvre: "Good bye !! Manila see u next time !!" "I'll be back soon :) Good night see u in dream !!" Donghae said, while Sisters tweeted, "thanks manila for all your love and passion. already miss you :(".

All, the feeling is definitely mutual.

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Lost in translation

Mara Coson

My friend in Japan has found friends, and found them with a shared understanding of life and what doesn't need to be said—the need to translate words dissolved with empathy

I'LL BE grave-worried one as a letter to a friend of mine, because I felt that my silence abandoned her to the unforgiving density of Tokyo; and I mean "abandon" not in the emotional sense of the word, but by reducing her experience to something she could live through easily.

I translated her emotions by thinking of her life in terms of the Sofia Coppola film "Lost in Translation." In the film, two disinclular characters interact in a vaguely platonic manner, and though they are foreign to each other (one being the young wife of a photographer who seems to feel lost anywhere), and the other being an older actor and a husband of middle-aged connotations, like being tasked to pick custom shades.

While they inhabit the foreignness of Tokyo and the foreignness of each other, they look for the significant shared experiences between them, and realized: Mutuality wasn't impossible.

When a trip to Tokyo is mentioned, and some people joke, "It'll just be like the 'Shit Lost in Translation,'" sometimes I wonder what they really mean.

Disinclusion has been a meeting theme of this week, and a what I have been thinking about ever since I attended a talk by Indonesian Verena Indasi on the weaponization of speech. It touched on translation as given by many manuals, including how language can demonstrate the protective barrier that a language to which to retire more in wealth, and how unbridgeable contexts, humor and slang denigrate others as the full trampling of thought.

Mistranslation

Any effort at translation, he surmises, is immediately a mistranslation. And by writing it in this vague open application to the everyday I feel like I've committed his words over more, thinking instead about the way we communicate, build friendships and understand ourselves.

I found myself a new friend recently, a half Filipino writer who knows not much more than "Bitch," "Jealous," "Lesson," "asawa" and swears of Teacher's Village trained affect Tagalog adjectives.

The other day I helped her translate a recorded Tagalog phone I laughed at my mutual acquaintance, trying to keep up as the mostly flow out of the anchor's mouth, handing it as "real time translation." But I soon faltered, pausing constantly and wondered how much she would ever understand if I didn't.

There are so many ways of feeling lost in translation, even in your own language.

What she showed me, however, were her terms of translation—how differently she sees this city from me and how she wishes to rid herself of subtitles, understand where Tagalog runs too fast and brush off her forgiveness altogether.

I looked at her, her alert eyes blinking double time every time a discussion promised learning, turning how this story translated itself to her, and I thought about how wonderful it was to see it from her perspective.

But as of this writing, she is probably over the Under Rapids, and I don't know if we'll ever see her again.

Not long ago, I received home from a short family trip to Korea. We spent the first couple of days watching Korean characters with what we believed meant "garlic" or "coffee," and speaking curdy because curses and speed left us misunderstood.

My career and I ended up in Hongdae, a university area that made for a more memorable setting, where at least familiar aesthetics made us feel at home. When we got out of Gogobang Jeongol, a vinyl-walled bar recommended to us, the street reminded us that we were foreign and we had no clue where to go.

We asked four people around our age where we could go in neo-hongdaying. My inner wealth all-pictured for epiphanic. One of them, Yo, would speak a little English, and they invited us to their office, which was an independent record label that over summer months was open from midnight to sunrise.

We shared music with each other, and it became the language required for us. Through a key next to the speaker, we switched between Korean and English on YouTube.

'Awesome'

We nodded with a little swag gesture to express our surprise to songs (though we quickly forgot the words we translated to each other for "good" and "awesome"), for the rest of the night we depended on a mobile of translators, on signs and on music.

Two of our new friends told us something, which she translated as, "They want to tell you that they have so much to say but they are not able to." While we wished more could have been said, it could have been an isolated moment in time, and like my secret friend, is something suddenly to happen again.

My friend in Japan respond us in my leave quickly, and I'm that she is getting by. She found friends, and found them with a shared understanding of life and what doesn't need to be said—the need to translate words dissolved with empathy.

One new friend of hers proved that shared experiences make that easy, to the way they spit their jobs on the same day the way they manage translations...something that formal beginner English cannot properly structure.

Unlike some Japanese who learned English in institutions, he learned from comedy musicians' formula, so he doesn't always use the right words, but he's able to express himself in a way that's more than just words.

I'm glad that I'm not the only one who has found friends in Japan, and found them with a shared understanding of life and what doesn't need to be said—the need to translate words dissolved with empathy.

Kathryn Bernardo and Scarlett Johansson in the film "Lost in Translation"

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Cliff Smith and Roland Orzabal (left) of Tears for Fears

Tears for Fears–still ruling the world, Manila included

By Roselle S. Tayao

AS I sang along to Tears for Fears' "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," in the sea of people at Smart-Araneta Coliseum, I had one thought running in my head: Thank you, Dad.

It was only through my father that I came to appreciate Tears for Fears' music. On long, annual road trips to my mom's hometown of Masbate, Pangasinan, Dad would always have the CD ready to play to keep him awake. My siblings and I grew up listening to his belt out "Shout" and all the other tracks on the album "Songs From Dead Dreams: Greatest Hits '82-'92."

Last Aug. 11, it was my turn to belt out these songs—at least, the ones I know—during the band's second concert day here in Manila. What I could sing along to were the ones I usually start with the loudest voice and a collective standing ovation: "Advice for the Young at Heart," "Sowing the Seeds of Love," "Mad World," "Change," "Head Over Heels," "Only Shallow" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

Some songs were vaguely familiar ("Memories Fade," "Suffer's Song," "Break It Down Again"); the others, I was hearing for the first time ("Closest Thing to Heaven," "Call Me Mellow," "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending," "Secret World")—but I was dancing to every one of them.

Aside from the members of Tears for Fears—Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal—and their touring band, Jamie Wollam, who provided backup vocals and sang the parts Oleta Adams originally performed in "Woman in Chains."

Pleasant surprise

A pleasant surprise was the band's cover of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," a slower, more soulful version. As Smith would later reveal, "Now the people who were here years ago, they [Ang, 30, the first day of Michael Jackson's] are going to be pissed we didn't sing that."

They also announced that all of the proceeds of their T-shirt sales would go to victims of the recent floods.

As the show appeared to come to a close after the song "Head Over Heels," the crowd started to chant different variations of "Tee!" "Encore!" "More!" and even began singing in unison a few lines from the chorus of "Shout." Curt's face lit, we weren't going to let them leave without singing that song!).

Of course, the band obliged, and Smith even came out wearing a (heh, Philippine flag-inspired) shirt. They officially ended their two-hour Manila concert with "Woman in Chains" and—what else!—"Shout."

And that last song I shamelessly belted out, possibly even louder than my dad does inside the car.

Super LIFESTYLE
E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

By Angela V. Ignacio
Contributor

WHILE everyone was getting all teary-eyed after Gary Lightbody's "Life-ning" speech, another beautiful scene was unfolding at the left side of the stage. Invitational concert photographer Magic Uwarang had been sweating buckets for the last two months preparing for this night, and for good reason.

One of all the concerts he's covered, this one gave him the perfect opportunity to ask his girlfriend of three years, PR manager Jud Doreza, the biggest question of his life.

Because both Magic and Jud were part of the production team for Snow Patrol's

JUST SAY

Snow Patrol live in Manila

By Angela V. Ignacio
Contributor

MOST believe that the evening couldn't have been worse. But for those who were there at the Smart Araneta Coliseum last Aug. 9, that couldn't be further from the truth. Snow Patrol earned its no-nonsense, earthy poignant performances that earned one to be a blessing of sorts for weather-beaten Manila.

The opening instrumental track "Berlin" from 2011's "Fallen Empires" sounded like daybreak—the first welcome rays of sunshine after a long, dreary storm. The lights dimmed and the members assembled onstage amid whoops. Frontman Gary Lightbody, lead guitarist Nathan Connolly, bassist Paul Wilson, keyboardist Tom Simpson, pianist/rhythm guitarist Johnny McDaid, and drummer Jonny Quinn.

The cheers intensified as the stage here was lit with the giddy track "Hands Open," which set the mood for the whole show. The stunning setup consisted of gorgeously timed stage lighting and a backdrop divided into seven roll panels that displayed video graphics alternating with live concert footage.

SHOW 10

Catch Plants vs. Zombies in a hilarious musical showdown on these dates:

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A taste of authentic Thai cuisine at Centara's Ginger & Lime

AT CENTARA Hotel Manila, the country's newest premium hotel for travelers in the Makati district, authentic Thai food makes a big splash at the hands of Centara's brand new restaurant, Ginger & Lime.

Ushering in the delightful Thai menu is international chef Tchanit Lertpichiy, a 20-year veteran who has been cooking her brand all over the world. Tchanit has scrapped kitchens of the top hotels in Thailand, Malaysia, Colombo, China, Singapore, and Switzerland.

Chef Tchanit plans to pioneer real Thai food, otherwise known as "Hood Thai," featuring authentic royal Thai cuisine dishes prepared in a brand new style.

Ginger & Lime is located in the rooftop level, Century Hotel Manila, 2 830 Pilar Street, Makati. For more information, call them at tel. no. (632) 526-3888, fax (632) 353-8838, e-mail dining@centara.ph or visit their website at www.centarahotelsresorts.com.

Marriott Manila bags PH culinary awards

MANDARIN Hotel Manila won six gold, one silver and two bronze medals in the recently-held Philippine Culinary Cup held at the SMX Convention Center. Helmed by executive chef Mok Sivalingam, the vibrant kitchen team showed great talent and innovativeness during the month long planning and preparation while balancing the daily demands of hotel operations. Gold medalists are commis II Patrick Lozano for the live (if) poultry contests; II Prince Pobre for live (if) beef; demi chef CJ Bautista for his live Australian lamb category; Rhowie Aznavor for his (and medal) swan meal; Christopher Baloran for chocolate carving, and demi chef Bonn Reyes for live pasta. Commis III Jose Santa received a silver medal in the live chocolate showpiece category. Those who received bronze medals were commis I Francis Dimaano for live sugar showpiece and demi chef Roco Carmona for wedding cake. Sous chef Raj Casanova was the team coach.

Afternoon tea at Waterfront Cebu's lobby lounge

TAKE your tea experience to a whole new level and enjoy an array of classic delicacies to complement the perfect blends of tea at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino's newly renovated Lobby Lounge. Do the traditional afternoon tea with a royal twist and take your pick from a selection of finger sandwiches—apple tuna with lemon mayonnaise on cheese cream puff, beef and vegetable empanada, freshly-baked warm raisin scones, clotted cream, or home-made strawberry and mango jam. You also get to choose from a delightful forward-looking tea blend, a fruit-infused tea blend, TWG, or coffee. For inquiries or reservations, call 232-8888 local 8000. Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino is located in Salinas Drive, Lahug.

La Carona offers beer below zero

EXPERIENCE a unique mash-up of disinterestedly prepared beers served in one of the best rated restaurant in the country—La Carona. Next Monday, Mexican La Carona Manila's restaurant, Cafe Arquitos, is now serving beers below zero for guests and staff in guests alike. Beer Below Zero (BBZ) is a truly unique technology developed by Filipinos, keeping in mind how the people love to drink so cold beer to ease them of the warm climate. Visit Cafe Arquitos with your buddies, no wrinkers or over-boozed rows. For reservation and other inquiries, call 529-2621 to 30. La Carona is at 1196 M.H. Del Pilar St. cor. Arquiza St., Ermita, Manila.

Avenue Plaza is nominated in Smile Awards 2012

THE AVENUE Plaza Hotel has been nominated in Cebu Public Smile Magazine's Smile Awards 2012 as best hotel for a three-day business trip. Of the eight hotels nominated, Avenue Plaza is the lone hotel outside Metro Manila and Cebu that made it to the list. "We are awed and thrilled and very thankful for the generous appreciations of our service by our guests during their stay or event here that made the nomination possible," said Allan Co, president and general manager of the family owned hotel. Readers get the chance to vote for their favorite brands in an online poll that will run on the Smile Facebook page from Aug. 1 to 31. You can also visit Avenue Plaza's facebook page for promos and events.

Marriott Manila opens 3 new executive floors

MARRIOTT Manila Hotel continues to offer its guests only the best hotel experience with the opening of three more floors with 53 deluxe guest rooms. The hotel will now have a total of 213 rooms. Berjaya Manila, one of the recent players in Makati City's bustling hotel industry, attracts currently enjoying robust growth and a steady influx of guests, now gives more options to visitors who are more discriminating with their choices. The new rooms, located on the 23rd, 24th and 25th floors of Berjaya Manila Hotel, have complete amenities at par with accommodations in pricier hotels. Berjaya Manila is located at 7836 Makati Avenue cor. Edsa pa Street, Makati City. For reservations and inquiries, call 750-7000, send e-mail to inquiry@berjayahotel.com, or visit www.berjayamnl.com.

Microtel and Cathay Land sign contract

MICROTEL Development Corp. and Cathay Land Inc. recently signed a joint venture agreement for the development of a 80-room Microtel hotel in South Forbes Bulilan City located to the booming Metro Cbs. Rizal, Laguna. Microtel South Forbes will be the 12th property in the country and the first international hotel chain in the area. Signing the contract were Victor del Rosario, Pimena Inc. chief executive officer; Jeffrey Ng, Cathay Land president; and Jose Mari del Rosario, Microtel president.

Top Accounts 2011 Awards Night

CENTURY Park Hotel honored its Pinoy Express and Philippine Airlines with the Top Airline Account award during a recent ceremony at the Grand Ballroom of the hotel. Giving the awards were Century Park's Philippe Barthelemy, director of sales Jessie Reyes and sales account manager Mac Christopher Manalang. Receiving the awards were Pochelo Amoroso, GSA relations and trade services manager (for MAPH Express), and Grace Valenzuela, Philippine Airlines sales and ad ministration manager.

Discover and explore the beauty of raw

DISCOVERY ... Foods That Nourish welcomes back raw food chef and health educator Mona Lisa Nedumeril's who's "cooking" to resume her much-anticipated series "The Beauty of Raw." Workshop dates are: Sept. 22 (Truly Healing Foods), Oct. 27 (Lose Weight the Raw Way), and Nov. 17 (Raw Holiday Feast). P1,200 per person for each workshop. Reservations call Ivy Duperreault at the MEDICOM Health Center located at 91 Pasay de Roxas corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Urdaneta Village, Makati City. Contact Angelo at (0917) 405-8055 or e-mail angelo@bodyandsoul.com for more information and reservations.

Because ladies can never have enough shoes

GIVALLY by Makati Shangri-La rescues all shoe lovers and chocoholics with yet another swoon-inducing sweet indulgence—Zapato, chocolate fashion. Each Zapato is made of velvety white chocolate shaped like a shoe, intricately hand painted in different colors and designs, beautifully packaged in a girly hand bag. Each style reflects a design personality, so guests may choose one or over the collection. After all, ladies can never have enough shoes. The Zapato Master Collection consists of 11 styles, each representing a girl. Zapato is now available at Givally by Makati Shangri-La, located at the second level of Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City. The chocolate shoe measures 20cm in length, and comes in beautiful packaging that makes it a perfect gift for the ladies. For orders, please call 729-6629 or e-mail givally.dmc@shangri-la.com.

Fresh and enticing food and wine selection at Toca

DUSIT Thani Manila invites you to "Botanicos del mar," a fresh and enticing selection of food and Bellagio wines at Toca Italian Grill. Discover a whole new dimension of rich aromas and flavors with scrumptious grilled dishes from Toscana's rustic menu. For every order of grilled steak and seafood dishes from Toca's a la carte menu, guests are entitled to a tasting portion and special prices on the Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay. Toca's "Botanica sold vino" food and wine promotion is available for lunch and dinner (except on the Sunday Family Crossover Brunch) until Aug. 31. Located at the Mezzanine Level of Dusit Thani Manila, Toca Italian Grill offers sumptuous gourmet creations and cosmopolitan wines at your reach. For inquiries and reservations, please call the Restaurant Reservations Desk at 238-8888.

TOSCA'S Botanicos del Mar

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BIGG'S

Snow Patrol live in Manila

In the aftermath of the unprecedented monsoon, Snow Patrol showered Manila with beautiful, uplifting songs and words of admiration for displaying 'grace under extreme pressure'

From page E3

Feel-good, feel-better music

The set consisted of 16 feel-good and feel-better songs, nebulous into one massive mega. The pantry "Take Back The City" and "Crack The Shutters" from 2008's "A Hundred Million Suns" churned up the crowd with its manly lyrics, while earlier anthropic hits "Chocolate," "Shut Your Eyes" and "Run" and I Have" his home with the lovebirdsians in the audience. One of the concert's most uplifting moments was during "Open Your Eyes," when Lightbody sweetly implored, "Tell me that you'll open your eyes" over and over, the lull band rising into a powerful crescendo.

While the rest of the band members had their game faces on throughout the entire show, the spotlight on Lightbody showcased the exuberance with his goofy antics, teasing his frenzied guitarists and hugging his gut to rock in between songs for comic relief.

The more serious singles "Called Out In The Dark" and "In The End" from "Eyes" built the momentum for the session (the track, we're simply, frenetic swings, thunderous drumbeats and Chasing lights accentuating Lightbody's haunting vocals.

Lightbody had said during our sound table interview that their goal was to make a huge arena feel small and intimate. But what UG does judging from the looks on people's faces, they easily achieved. But good in Manila. It was during the tender moments that the band's connection with its audience was most evident, and Lightbody's quiet charisma the most effective.

During mainstream favorites "Run" and "Chasing Cars," his vocals were rich and velvety.

'Life-sing' speech

The thoughtful people that they are, the band already had heartfelt words for the Filipino people early on in the set. "You are all an inspiration to the world," Lightbody said before launching into "What If I Everything You Are." But it was his speech before the plaintive ballad "Life sing" that served as the emotional climax of the show, in which he dedicated the song as a "healing gesture" to those who had suffered from during the calamity.

"This song is about my family and my home, and I can't think what it would be like if it was taken from me," he shared. "I'd like to offer this song to you all out of respect for your grace, your humanity, and your kindness. Thank you, all. We'll never forget this." Needless to say, there wasn't a dry eye in sight.

"Words of reassurance, but only if they're true ... Just some simple kindness, no vengeance from the gods. This is all I ever wanted from life," he broadcast while softly strumming his acoustic guitar. It's a simply, sincere wish he shared not only with the 60-or-more 6,000 fans in the arena, but with the rest of the Filipino community.

The band finished off a flawless set with the sweet synth sounds of "Just Say Yes." (See related story on page E11.)

Wonderfully uplifting

Despite the illusion of boundlessness, Snow Patrol's songs have that wonderfully uplifting effect that's only magnified when experienced live.

After the show, signed CDs and posters were sold at the gate after the show, with proceeds from the sales to be donated to the Disney victims' families interspersed "healing gesture" that further endears the band from Glasgow to people on this side of the world. Gayle Entertainment's Tess Rodriguez came up our sentiments in a recent post on her Facebook account: "Snow Patrol, I have a fourth love and respect for you now. Thank you so much. Your show could not have come at a better time. Good choice of song to dedicate to the Filipinos too. The lyrics are very meaningful.

"If any of you ever get the chance to watch Snow Patrol live, don't miss it in the future, do not think twice about getting a ticket. Yes only are they great live, they have big hearts," she added.

We couldn't agree more. A hundred million thanks and kudos to the band for spreading warmth and joy when we Filipinos needed it the most.

'Just say yes,' sang Snow Patrol ...

From page E1

Manila (on the setting couldn't have been more overwhelmed. Everyone was in on it: Their closest friends, the concert promoters, and even the artists themselves. Plus, with the help of events organizer Robert Benzarafan and jeweler Candy Dimaya, he was also able to have the perfect engagement ring made in record time.

Sure, there were a few last obstacles he had to hurdle—or in this case, wade through. Flight delays, a typhoon, downpour and flash-flood floodwater to pick up the ring just the day before the event. Magic even had an personal shot there was an aftershave for the band to give Joel an excuse to drive up, for she ended up crossing awaken anyway (but it was all worth it; in the end, she never saw it coming).

On the night of the concert, everything (and everyone) was in place, and it was time for the surprise effort now to home into nervous giggles. Once inside, we huddled near to the sound equipment on the left side of the stage and kept Joel distracted while Magic got his act together.

'My turn'

"Just Say Yes" was supposed to be the final encore song. Incidentally, it was also the Snow Patrol track chosen by Jodi's friends for "That is my cue," she said, count eyes wyed, and turned to record the song on her phone. She was so engrossed to notice that we'd already started filming our own gadgets.

We slowly inched away from her to give Magic space. And, just before the song broke into the chorus, he came out from backstage, smartly dressed and grinning nervously. He tapped her on the shoulder, said a simple "Hi," and dropped on one knee.

She let him sang the first rest.

In the dumbstruck chaos, we could only watch Jodi's expression change from astonishment at being interrupted into utter confusion, before settling on complete shock. He slipped the ring on her finger and held her tight as she started to cry-in-earnest.

"Just say yes," Gary crooned on the other side of the stage while the word "YES" flashed on the screen, punctuating his big, reckless finale. Jodi, we assured frantically and unwanted ourselves, beams trying to catch the frontman's attention. "Gary! She did! SHE SAID YES!"

In the space of a heartbeat, the newly engaged couple was surrounded by drinks and smiles and flashing camera bulbs. Even the band's guitar techs stopped to give their hearty congratulations, complete with patient pecks on cheeks.

We later heard out that Magic didn't even get to pop the question, and that Joel only said yes after he'd put the ring on her finger. For both, though, there are just no words for such a monumental gesture. Okay, maybe except for one.

Not three (no seriously, please), there's really no better way to start the rest of their lives together.

SUPER THERMOMETER

What's hot, what's not

Pugung goes Solo

SOLO launched its newest Cartoonist Hero: soloist Collection meme tee and we were happy to know that it was inspired by Pugung, one of our favorite Pinoy comic strips. The collection, which includes shirts, jackets, pouches, coffee cups and notebooks, are now available in Solo stores nationwide.

Charity queens

CALL these beauties with hearts of gold. Last Monday, they went to Pinas dedicated to gorgeous gowns for Shahasi Bawis Pie Evening Gown Competition 2013. The Drag Queen Charity Ball. Martin Saavedra and Pamil Paule won Miss Best In Evening Gown while Jigs Mayuga was crowned Hot Princess. The event was able to raise P50,000 for calamity victims. No doubt about it—these queens are beautiful inside and out.

Mail diva

YOU DON'T have to be in front of local drama to hold a concert. One girl proved that all you need for a good show is a Magic Sing mic and noisy vocal chops. Someone filmed Cyndee Rose Ilonerdo's rendition of "And I Am Telling You" at SM Megamall and posted it on YouTube. Soon, the video had amassed over a million views. Now, the aspiring singer has her own Facebook fan page and has appeared on TV (watch out for her on Party Pilipinas on Sunday).

Sweet relief

RELIEF efforts for flood victims continue and there are many ways to help. If you want to know how you can contribute, visit Rappler.com, which is run by siblings Jose Santiago Ridon Santiago Gerardo Ilonerdo Jr. Jose, who was on vacation from Ben Hogan when the monsoon hit, took the helm. His sister Katrina provided the content. They said, "Our goal now is to come up with something that would be updated on information for friends-same-in-need-all over. The task now is to make sure that all this could be verified by pointing to a Twitter handle, website or Facebook page, and later on to the spreadsheet of DOOM."

Hot rockets

We have our eyes on two National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists—Filipino-American Gregory Galgana (Mar 11, who is son of NASA's youngest engineers on the Mars Curiosity mission, and Rafale Fernandez Jabo known as Rafaelah Day), a Mars rover flight director who has received numerous marriage proposals from infatuated fans. Okay okay, our teachers were right: science can be cute.

Tina Satta vs. Sarah Pape

TITO Sotto and his staff earned the ire of the online community when people realized that parts of his anti-RH bill speech had been lifted from the blog "Bro. I Heart Bro. dot com." Not to be outdone, Sotto's chief of staff Nestor Villaverde penned a comment on blogger Sarah Pape's page, bringing up Jose Rizal and stating, "Who would you like to watch the Noli me tangere night?" and "Ito sa pat ada." Pape replied, "I don't like that my blog was used without my permission against the abolition of the heinous crime. Philippines and their reproductive rights. That is the lesson and moral of my blog entry." And to Filipino women, she had this message: "Late bro-tito sorry na lang was used and twisted against you."

Losing vision

NIL INDIE shocked to hear the story of Jason Iskandar, the 18-year-old Sanggo-song Kabataan chairman who was killed last Sunday. At 4 his community death wasn't painful enough, his family discovered that his eyes had been taken for donation without their consent. They intend to press charges against the Eye Bank of the Philippines.

The Blair witch hunt

UNLESS you were hiding under a rock this past week, we're sure you know who Robert Blair Constituens is. The 40-something about to notoriety after a video of him invading Metropolitan Manila Development Authority enforcer Salumino Cabrera went viral. An online watchdog message, with netizens pulling up hate pages on Facebook, digging up his photos and plastering his personal information (including address and phone number) all over social networking sites. Clearly, no good comes out of

Share us your thoughts on the Super Thermometer? E-mail us at super@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

SATURDAY Special

Irresistible musical hooks keep J. Lo relevant

By Rita P. Avila

JENNIFER LOPEZ has never been about powerful singing—but, the indetectable hooks and beats recently meticulous she delivers in her dance-floor stickers are more than enough to keep her red-hot relevant on the music scene—on "Dance Again," her first greatest-hits package, deliberately so.

Yes, J. Lo is 43—but, who cares? Certainly not People magazine and its readers, who declared her the world's Most Beautiful last year, beating Zac Efron, Emma Stone and other gorgeous contemporaries by scores. While not skipping a beat, the stakes are that unbalanced. Debut members the coveted "Hits" to her new collection's chart-topping centre single, "Dance Again."

LOPEZ. Diverse multimedia endeavors.

"Going In" (with Flo Rida), the album's other hi-tand-new song, is also featured in the soundtrack of "Step Up Revolution."

The new tunes' heady electropop and fast-dance savagery helps delineate the evolution of Lopez's music—from the sultry sophistication of 1999's "If You Had My Love" and 2001's "Love Don't Cost A Thing" to the incessant hip-hop pulse of last year's "On The Floor" (with Pitbull), the release of which astutely coincided with the beginning of the singer-dancer's two-season stint on "American Idol"—which successfully revived her career!

Mixed bag

A mixed bag of groove-heavy dance treats, the album also includes Lopez's collaborations with Lil Wayne ("I'm Into You"), Styles P and Jadakiss ("Henry From 'Da Block'"), Fabolous ("Can Right"), in Belly ("I'm Real"), and the Jim and Big Pun/Jadakiss-Freckle "Feelin' So Good").

You'll also enjoy the sexy "All I Have" (with LL Cool J), 1999's "Let's Get Loud," and "Que Hiciste". Divas "Como Ama Una Mujer," her first full-length Spanish-language album's is the compilation's deluxe edition.

J. Lo was wise enough not in currency her sudoroar as "IC." Thereafter, she wisely took on diverse multimedia endeavors that have kept her in the spotlight: like seasonal up with Cameron Diaz in the hit rom-com "What to Expect When You're Expecting," and lent her voice to "Ice Age: Continental Drift" talent-studded figure, Mira.

To make sure she coexists to make similarly big waves on the small screen, Lopez headlines Simon Fuller's hit talent tilt, "AYE-ruel. The Chasers," which premieres on Fox World on Aug. 23. It follows J. Lo, her ex-husband, Marc Anthony, and director-choreographer Jamie King as they travel across 25 countries in South America in search dancers, singers, acrobats and musicians for their upcoming "greatest Latin show ever" in Las Vegas. —The woman sure knows how to make busy while the sun shines!

Regine, Janice—exceptions that prove the rule

By Nestor U. Torre

THE BOTOX tolerant of GMA 7's "Eat TV" chew-bit-enquiries show last Aug. 3, was an event in its own right. Because it showcased the TV comeback as a regular colleen of top singer-actress Regine Velasquez, after her first date with the ouch some months ago.

Regine had got so many parents during her pregnancy, as it was a really pleasant surprise to see that she had taken off quite a lot of the extra centrifugals in a relatively short time. Even better, Regine proved to be a drowning and hardworking one. Sent on her new shows, effectively compensating for the relatively humdrum work turned in by some of her colleagues.

The new pregnant's host suit as far as scope and structure are concerned is to welcome departure from the "all-gossip" brand of most other chew-bit-oriented programs on the side. It's a welcome relief to watch a program that is interested, not just in dishing the dirt, but in other aspects of celebrities' lives—and sometimes even in topics not at all related to stars and stardom' capsule concerns.

Last Aug. 3, that involve-bit-ist piece was represented by a long feature on the paranormal phenomenon of sea-colored lunch and snorkel.

The three tried to compromise for the absence of "star value" in that portion by involve-ing the sea phenomenon in the phenomenon it was focusing on. However, despite its best efforts to hilarity and zazzle, the long features still halitosis and up-as a less highlight of the telecast.

Coverage

So, for that matter, did most of the debut telecast's other features, especially its rather vain and trite coverage of the current activities of three former child stars—Jon Jon!

On point of content and involvement, therefore, the new program still has a lot of wrenching to do before it can truly live up to its "wrenching" title.

Part of the problem is due to the less than scintillating work turned in by some of Regine's colleagues. They prove not previously mixed connection that many celebrities don't do well when they become TV program hosts, because they can't make the shift from dynamic or comedic performance to playing "straight"—or be-cyborgs.

They can be interesting and even exciting when they act or sing—but, as chatmasters, they turn out to be phlegmatic, lacking in dynamism and genuine interest in the topic or interviewee, subject as hand, and too dependent on the scripted spiels that they are made to read from those appropriately named idiot boards in the TV studio.

By the way, the same thing is happening on ABS-CBN's panel show, "Showbiz Inside Report," where Janice de Belen is the most effective robust on its panel of celebrity-busters.

What do Regine and Janice have

DE BELEN. Doesn't need scripted spiels to express her viewing opinions and point of view.

ROUND, 11

FANS' DAY

Waiting for Hilda's return

By Andy Bon

HILDALIA LYE, fresh reader: "I was a child of the '70s, and I grew up watching the Reyes of my favorite divorce, the late Lino Brocka. I ran also a fan of his protégés, Hilda Koronel and Joseph Estrada. I wonder where they are now. I hope a producer or director will help them stage a comeback and show today's stars what good acting is all about."

Other views:

Dante Rubi, medical doctor: "The changes in the TV screen during and after the iconic raging movement reins were just like the ones seen in past calmnities: The same scenes, only the faces of those involved were different—avalanche of landslide-prone areas refusing to evacuate to safer ground; the lack or absence of life-saving devices for

KORONEL. Can show today's stars what good acting is all about.

rescue operations, and heaps of garbage. Reyes tiga-malasakit?"

Jojo Calderon, housewife: "The ride that the people behind 'House Be Careful With My Heart' took in causing the unwanted tandem of Jodi Sta. Maria and Richard Yap at loud ones is paying off with the high ratings it's getting. This proves that viewewers are now putting more value on simple and easy-to-follow storylines, with characters they can relate to, and with less popular leads who have nevertheless proven themselves in be exceptional actors. More power to the drama series!"

Evangeline Caing, 84-year-old ex-government employee: "This is in response to a previous item in this section on the barrage of product promotions, teaser trailers and celebrity testimonials in between segments of popular drama series. May I add that this is also true in morning and evening newscasts?

"Which government agency can we write to report these obvious abuses? Admittedly, commercials are the main sources of income of TV and radio stations—but, a logical compromise should be reached so as to both the networks and their viewers well."

E-mail: bobandy@yahoo.com

Daunting challenges in new TV game show

By Nestor U. Torre

RECENTLY, WE caught several telecasts of the new TV5 Saturday game show, "Game & Go," and found it more perplexing than entertaining. The over-all impression the show made on us was that it was a contraption of generally outrageous challenges that sometimes tested its contestants' physical abilities to the extreme.

One game had contestants trying to make ping pong balls fly by blowing them away—while being severely constrained by a facial contraption that made it virtually impossible for them to do so.

Further "entertainment" value was provided by the fact that the wrecking mask distorted their facial features something awful, so they looked like pathetic caricatures.

Plastic 'wall'

Another test required them to break through a clear plastic "wall," which was so strong that it created their best effect in a second!

Later, noncelebrity contestants played the "Tree and Fall" game, which was weird, because the players had to choose one of three circles to stand on, without having the faintest notion why they were doing so.

EOLI Hussong cohosts "Game & Go" with pop do Luna.

It turned out that they would be asked a question with one right answer and two wrong ones—and the contestants who chose the wrong circle to stand on—would fall to a pit below!

We've seen a version of this "game" played on Ellen DeGeneres' TV show and found it funny then, because the players could save themselves by coming up with the correct answer. In "Game & Go's" hilarious version, however, it's all a matter of luck, as the hapless ones fall down.

In fact, some of the players looked downright terrified as they hoped that the circle they were standing on wouldn't open up through no fault of their own, just due to their terribly bad luck.

Instructions

Toward the end of another telecast, a game was played in an "earthquake" room that shook as two out of players were tasked to play a game that required them to follow a series of "funny" instructions designed for them to take parallels all over the contestants shaking act.

In addition the game's "host" baton, most of the contestants were stunningly ugly (and gay). It gave eminent seeing that all of the players' frantic efforts to be funny while balancing their balance caused me to be non-event, because the key winning element was the "ugly" factor, as the least lovely contestant (by fact was the sole judge's word...hands down!

What are we to make of this cogently mix of games and contestants? That the show will do anything to make viewers laugh. That it has a contestants outlook "get the contestant" mentality that subjects its players to difficult physical tests that make them roll. That the hardness or weirdness of some of the tests makes them so very funny to watch.

"Game & Go"? Uh, guess go.

Regine

Francisco F1

in common that enables them to do well even as their stellar cohorts falter? They're both unique individuals with strong opinions and points of view—and the ability to express those opinions in a succinct and interesting manner, with little or no help from scripted spiels and such.

Other stars who also want to do well as TV hosts should arrive on the like them—or risk seeing their vacated circle turn into—flocks!

Mickey Rooney . . .

Francisco F4

his abusive lifestyle took a toll on his humorist career. He was considered passé, and was dropped like a hot potato!

Rooney is also remembered as the first husband of Ava Gardner. In the '50s, his career was resurrected in "Breakfast at Tiffany's," where he was cast as the Japanese neighbor of Holly Golightly (Audrey Hepburn)!

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: THE BOURNE LEGACY (3D)
2: PEOPLE LIKE US
3: THE BOURNE LEGACY
4: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 3
5: JUST ONE SUMMER
6: THE EXPENDABLES 2
7: THE REUNION

GREENBELT 1
1: THE BOURNE LEGACY
2: THE EXPENDABLES 2

GREENBELT 2
1: THE EXPENDABLES 2
2: THE BOURNE LEGACY (3D)
3: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 3
4: THE EXPENDABLES 2 (3D)
5: THE BOURNE LEGACY

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: THE EXPENDABLES 2
2: THE BOURNE LEGACY (3D)
3: THE BOURNE LEGACY
4: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 3
5: THE REUNION

ARNA CINEMA CEBU
1: THE EXPENDABLES 2 (3D)
2: THE BOURNE LEGACY
3: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 3
4: THE REUNION

MARQUEE
1: THE REUNION
2: THE EXPENDABLES 2 (3D)
3: THE BOURNE LEGACY
4: JUST ONE SUMMER

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THE EXPENDABLES 2 (3D)
2: THE BOURNE LEGACY
3: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 3
4: THE BOURNE LEGACY
5: THE REUNION
6: JUST ONE SUMMER
7: BLANCO

TRINOMA
1: THE REUNION
2: JUST ONE SUMMER
3: THE BOURNE LEGACY (3D)
4: PEOPLE LIKE US
5: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 3
6: THE BOURNE LEGACY
7: THE EXPENDABLES 2

ABREEZA
1: THE EXPENDABLES 2 (3D)
2: THE REUNION
3: THE BOURNE LEGACY
4: JUST ONE SUMMER

HARBOR POINT
1: THE REUNION
2: THE BOURNE LEGACY
3: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 3
4: THE EXPENDABLES (3D)

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August 18/Greenbelt 5 Gallery

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Piano The Town Had Solo
August 19-21

MARKET! MARKET!
Kadayawan Festival
August 18 & 19/Activity Center

TRINOMA
QC Hot Bodies vs. Trainers, Talents, Alike
August 22-24/Activity Center

MARQUEE
Holy Angel University Mr & Ms. APIA
August 25/Canlubang Center

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PADILLA. Portrays the "nasty but nice" love interest of Kathryn Bernardo.

2 works in progress

By Nestor U. Torre

THE SHOW-BIZ season, one of the new talents being given the big build-up treatment is Daniel Padilla. Still in his teens, Daniel has been given increasingly bigger parts on TV—principally on the continuing series, "My Precious and I," in which he plays the "nasty but nice" love interest of lead, Kathryn Bernardo. She has only to gesture to the show, but Daniel's character is doomed the most "fascinating" in the bunch, thanks to his mercurial moods.

The role suits Daniel to a T—or rather, a P—because he's the nephew of Robin Padilla, who originated the "bad boy" screen persona that Daniel's character vaguely approximates. It's a good thing, though, that his role is not as in-your-face based as Robin's opposite-sex screen character was.

For one thing, his character is no pure boy with a huge chip on his shoulder to explain why he's so surly in fact, he's spoiled and used to getting his way—until Kathryn knocks some sense into his smug mug.

But, the role is still strong enough for young female viewers to find the actor deliciously "dangerous" enough to get down all in a breathless dither. When Daniel beams those "killer" eyes on them, they're gonzo!

On point-of-acting ability, however, Daniel is a work in progress—still getting his thespic act together, beyond the nasty persona and killer stares. He may get the poetic moves down pat, but they lack intensity and insight. For, he's still in his callow teens, but if he's going to be as big a star to succeed as some show biz says, are producing today, he's got to understand that acting is "acting," and being, not posing and pretending.

...That's a huge gap that has to be bridged before Daniel Padilla can really come into his own as a major screen find. Even Daniel's fan-fiction would agree!

Not dynamic enough

For his part, Richard Gutierrez has been a TV-film leading man for close to a decade, but he's also still a work in progress. He isn't lacking in stellar experience, that's for sure, but his performances have been generally deficient in terms of energy, dynamism, passion and thespic grit.

Perhaps Richard is too handsome for his own good? Some people (dreamy) with exceptional looks don't develop the other aspects of their thespic "equipment," because their great looks have made success and popularity-on-cue easy for them to achieve.

To his credit, however, it looks like Richard isn't happy about his reputation for coming up with relatively bland characterizations and performances. On his current drama series, "Makapiling Kang Muli," for instance, he can be seen trying his best to beef up his act—which may be why the production has tapped ace actor, Ricky Davao, to direct and guide Richard in come up with a grittier and more dynamic portrayal.

Also, he isn't there yet—but, at least he's trying hard, so we urge him to push himself even more, so that he can finally come into his own as an actor in the authentic sense of the word!

ALVAREZ AND SENA. No regrets.

Spotlight's noble mission deserves theater lovers' support

THE HUSBAND AND WIFE team of Robert Arevalo and Issa Alvarez have done very well indeed as instructional performers. They both started their careers on the world stage in the original production of the hit musical, "Miss Saigon," in London, where Robert was a part of the ensemble, while Issa was tapped to play the key role of Gigi.

But let's face it, Robert may have started as a member of the chorus in the popular musical, but he certainly didn't stay there. Soon enough, he was "promoted" to the important role of Thuy, the Vietnamese officer who was passionately enamored with the musical's lead character, Kim.

Robert did so well in the role that he was eventually promoted to—guess!—to play no less than the musical's male lead role of The Engineer, originally portrayed by Jonathan Pryce.

After his stints in "Miss Saigon," he continued to appear in other musicals in Europe, capped by his portrayal of a lead role in "Rent," here in Manila.

Despite these glittering successes in Europe, however, Issa and Robert increasingly felt the need to share what they had learned performing abroad with their countrymen.

Taking a deep breath, they made the big decision to come home—and they haven't regretted it ever since.

Assignments

They have been kept busy by many assignments in theater, recording and acting on TV (best of all, Robert's, Issa, Tricia Araneta-Gomez and Carl Guilas have put up the Spotlight Artists Center to train many new performing artists.

Spotlight has also gone into the very essential task of producing original Filipino musicals. This has become an important mission today, because foreign musical works dominate the local performing scene.

Despite the difficulties involved, Spotlight is banking the "imported" tide with the revival of "Rent," the iconic musical on the life of Katy dela Cruz, the country's Queen of Soulful, with Issa playing the challenging title role.

Some well-meaning people have tried to dissuade them, but Issa and Robert are holding steady to the course they've charted for themselves, because they believe that it's important for our scene of indigenous stuff needs to tell our own stories and sing our own songs.

To support the revival performances of "Rent" in the CCP Little Theater early next year, call Spotlight at 895.8889 or 0922 898 6004, or visit www.spotlightartscenter.com.

Mickey Rooney—'small but terrible'

By Bebs Cervantes

ROONEY. Ava Gardner's first husband.

MICKEY ROONEY one of the biggest stars of Hollywood, is a diminutive, but much taller than Judy Garland, who was only 4'11".

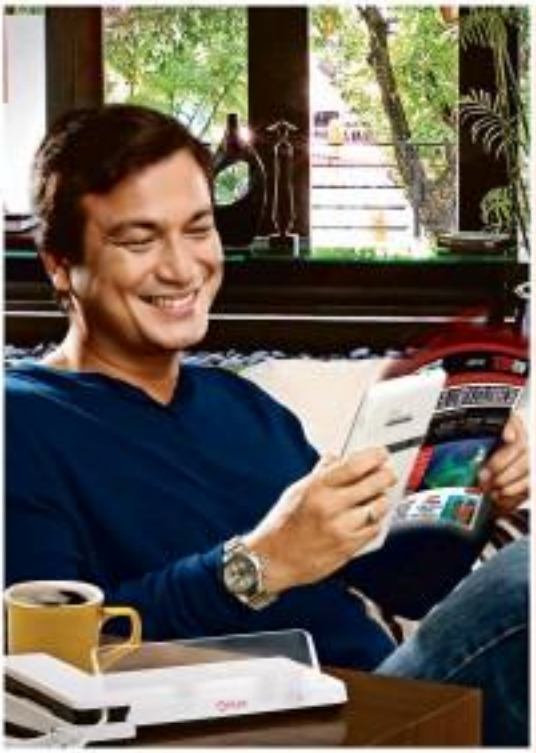
Indeed, Rooney may be small, but he's also terribly talented. He is the recipient of, not one awards for a career that spanned nine decades. In fact, Spencer Tracy once stated that Mickey was Time Bonus's best actor ever.

In "National Velvet," he starred with Liz Taylor. He also appeared in an all-star production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with Olivia de Havilland.

Series

At MGM, Rooney teamed with Garland in another musical. He led the cast of the successful Andy Hardy series.

Because he was a box-office attraction, the diminutive actor was spoiled and pampered by a studio that wrinkled his back as he drank, gambled and flirted shamelessly with a bevy of auditions starlets. In time,



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SATURDAY Special

Mainstream filmmaking scene perks up

By Nestor U. Torre

IT'S BEEN a full decade since the slump in commercial filmmaking that threatened to virtually eradicate our Pilipino film industry from a high of 200 to the dismally low number of only around 40 or so per year.

To address this problem, the Cinemalaya indie film festival and competition was put up, to fund the production of budget but significant feature films. Other funding groups have since joined the movement, which has been so effective that budget indies now make up the majority of the 70 or so feature films produced here each year.

The indie movement has become so successful that mainstream producers have learned a thing or two from it, and the latest piece of good news this year is that they are making more movies now than last year. In fact, this month, there are five mainstream-funded feature films opening in town—"The Reunion," "Good-good," "Sun Ove Sessions," "Mga Munting Liham" and the APO movie, "I Do Bidoo Bidoo."

To be sure, these are relatively "small" productions, not at least they enable actors and production people to work, make money and feed their dependents.

Promise

In particular, we're hoping that "I Do Bidoo" lives up to its promise so that, like Mike and Vilma's "Bituin," the hero songs written by acclaimed Filipino composers can energize the local musical film scene.

For its part, "The Reunion" exploits young locales like Boracay Dive and Batanes Girl in a bittersweet tale of bachelorette years after graduation, experiencing the occasionally harsh realities of life. Other lead roles are played by Kean Cipriano, Sam Lee, Jessy Mendiola and Megan Young.

The new horror film, "Good-good," is interesting because it showcases the directorial promise of Tara Illenberger. Her first made her mark in the movies as a film editor, so we're eager to see if her touch on "Good-good" proves our conviction that many former editors make outstanding directors, because they have mastered the language and visual storytelling. Illenberger's new chiller unfolds Lovi Poe and silver young leads Mercedes Cabral and Megan Young.

"Sun Ove Sessions" is interesting and perhaps instructive in a different way—it launches the love team of Julia Aiono Ian Jose and Elmo Magalona on the big screen.

Julia and Elmo are seen from an TV, on ETC for smiling to see if their romantic instincts has what it takes to "translate" to success in the movies. If they do really well, they could become the next Coy and Pip, or Vi and Bet. OK, that may be a bit much, but there's for their diehard fans to prove or disprove.

Finally, Joey Reyes' Cinemalaya film, "Mga Munting Liham," is "graduating" to mainstream release to some theaters. Its stellar cast has made the successful engagements possible.

We hope the film pulls in viewers, so other indie productions can make the same transition.

Indies do well in festivals, but it's in the commercial theater circuits where the real money is made.

NOW SHOWING

Heartthrobs luck out

By Rito P. Asilo

IN HOMICO MANILA "The Reunion," Enchong Dee, Kean Cipriano Ejit and Sean Cipriano Mateo a silly incident from their murky high school days for the bad luck that has since befallen them. Lloyd (Dee) is a graphic artist who still carries a torch for his ex-girlfriend, Ara (Cristine Reyes), many years after the scandalous incident tore them apart. He believes that fixing his relationship with his former flame is key to reuniting the quartet's collective jinx in life and love.

From (Left), Reggie (Ejit) and

HEARTTHROBS 32

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EXPENDABLES 2

Artists' tilt goes beyond stylish diversion

By Hanna G. Torre

"WORK OF ART": Exciting, provocative and fun.

FOR YEARS, now, we've been urging TV producers to give the arts the importance and perceptive treatment they deserve, to raise viewers' understanding of our shared creative and identity.

Alas, the response has come piecemeal, unheeded, because TV people feel that viewers aren't interested in "heart and soul" issues, or are dismayed by drama, and thus prefer to get shallow, throwaway entertainment.

Significance

So make things worse, some of the few arts-oriented shows we do get are lazy and predictably stale.

Some that don't capture the excitement and empathetic significance of the lives of creative artists and their assorted works, and instead re-inforce the nasty notion that the arts are difficult to understand, hifalutin and excruciatingly dull.

Recently, however, we watched a show on the Bravo channel, "Work of Art," that effortlessly debunks that hoary notion, and serves as an example of how any program can be exciting, provocative and fun.

Yup, provocative and fun.

We hope that local TV producers get as much a co-arbor shares of the same enlightened and perceptive buzz, and get inspired enough to come up with similar programs for Filipino viewers.

"Work of Art" is like the visual arts' version of singing idols like "American Idol". It finds a group of gifted visual artists who compete against each other in different challenges each week, until the best of them square off in the fifth finale.

One of the telecasts we caught showed the storytelling finalists as they tackled a particularly innovating challenge that merged both "high" and "low" art objectives, by having the artists come up with works that they could sell at street art—and still pass the higher standards of gallery patrons and the elite's even more discriminating jurors.

We were intrigued by the challenge's fusion of two usually disparate artistic concerns—for the artist to come up with imaginal works that speak of his essence and vision, and to make art that sells.

Indeed, that combination and contradiction are relevant to many artists' careers, so it was an inspired move for the show to tackle it by way of its "street vs. gallery" challenge.

To make the contest more exciting, the winning pair of artists whose works grossed the most in the streets would win a hefty ₱50,000 for their gains—and the runners-up, ₱25,000.

It was instructive to see how the artists adjusted their vision to come up with "more sellable" works—including a contestant's clever plan to

ARTISTS' St

Unique dessert

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

ACCORDING TO Ernesto N. [illegible], general manager of Harrods restaurant in Silverstone, it was a Danish chef who conceived the company's ice cream during a food promotion involving flavors at LOOnquito, which her company used to run in Makati in the '80s.

Two scoffs, "We tried other flavors, like ylang-ylang, durian, dahong Tsaa Centre and Metropolitan Museum.

The flavors are grown mostly in Lubao, Pampanga. The special ice cream is a natural herbal deodorizer that also aids digestion. The yummy confection is a mixture of sampaguita and vanilla beans. (We came across this information while working on "Sampaguita Enclosed," a book on our national flower.)

* * *

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Operations

Her father, Boniface Ormerod, oversees the operations of Starbucks and its three branches at SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center and Metropolitan Museum.

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David Duchovny talks about 'Californication' and Marilyn Manson

LOS ANGELES—"He was dressed better than me," said David Duchovny, wearing a pin-is shirt and slacks, about Jon Hamm, whom we just interviewed. The "Mad Men" actor wore a suit—"I see confirmed bachelor," he joked, "I didn't like that."

Settling down into a chair, Duvid said he just wrapped shooting Season Six of his TV series, "Californication," where he plays Hank Blundy, a lecherous writer. Duvid also said that rocker Marilyn Manson will make appearances in the series. "Manson is a big fan of the show," he disclosed. Apparently, he signs little books as Hank Moody, which I find hilarious." He promptly "Googled" it, but I sign it as Marilyn Manson."

The star explained how the rocker with the cinnamon Goth make-up ended up on "Californication." "He's been in touch with Tom Kapinos and show runner Sarah Gertrude Shapiro," he explained. "They've been trying to work him in."

The actor also noted for his FBI Special Agent Fox Mulder character on his previous series, "The X-Files," added, "Hank goes into the rock 'n' roll world. The music genre star is this guy named Tim Minchin (the piano dexter). He's very talented. This position doesn't really exist in America. You have a polished humorist musician. I'm setting political, philosophical and funny songs, and performs them quite powerfully. He's the rock 'n' roller I'm pulling around with, because I'm trying to write a few songs for him from a book that I've written that he knows."

David said, "Anyway, since This plays a rock star in that fictional world, he's friends with Manson." He said with a grin, "So, Manson just shows up every now and then."

The Yale- and Princeton-educated actor said that his recent "biggest thrill" was that he studied playing guitar about nine months ago. "Tom Kapinos started writing into the show that I'm playing guitar," he said.

Fledgling guitarist

The fledgling guitarist continued excited about shooting the show's finale at the Greek Theatre in LA. "It was a big concert for Hank's character," he recounted, "Manson also came and performed."

Duvid also dominated the series' recent season-ender party. David disclosed, "I got to play one of the backup guitars for Manson as he sang 'Good California.' I found it touching that he would do that for us. It's appears in her a manager, that he's actually sweet."

The actor disked that news who think they are like his sexy, rakish character would try to tell him stories. "People think that they're Hank Moody, and they want to tell me," he said. "If they are under 30, I think, OK. If they are over 30, I think, no, that's a problem. If they are 70 and they think they are Hank Moody, I go, 'OK, cool...good for you.' As there's like a win-lose—between 30 and 70, you're in trouble if you're acting that way."

He talked about how the show's characters have evolved. "It's interesting, also, in the first three years of the show, Hank was the wildcard in his world," David began. "He was the person who would go into a situation and create havoc. Then, a subtle shift happened in the last season, where he was the one who was constantly reacted. Hank became the calmest, the voice of reason on the show."

Relationship

"For me, the show is always about going back to the family and the relationship between my character and Dane of Natascha McElhone (Elise) and Mahly Martin (Becca). We can spin off into absurd scenarios and the craziness that we do, but what has made the show last is that it has heart at its center—this family love story or is their daughter relationship."

DUCHOVNY: Voice of reason.

He New York native laughed off talk that he and his "The X-Files" costar, Gillian Anderson are living together. "Gillian and I have been reading e-mails," he exhibitioned. "Very funny. I wish I could share the thread where I wrote, 'I'm very sorry for having the wildest night of (didn't know you were living with me. Where are you exactly in the house?' I just haven't found her yet. So, it's not me."

Duvid confirmed that he's still married to actress Tea Leoni, but they are separated. Asked about the future on his ring finger, he explained that it was a substitute for an actual wedding ring, "because I wouldn't wear a ring all the time," he said. "I don't like wearing jewelry. So, I got this (tattoo) instead of a wedding ring."

The 52-year-old actor sounded optimistic about another "The X-Files" movie. "I hope we do happen," he said. "I really do." Interest: Chris Carter's many humor when I'm shooting in LA. He says he's going to have a script. We're all eagerly awaiting what he's got up his sleeves."

On his former students at Yale, Duvid said, "They get in touch with me sometimes. Because of the social media, nobody can hide. One of them has become a proxy well-known writer. I taught him experimental writing. He's a wonderful writer. I had nothing to do with that."

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ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca T. Reginaldo

More TV advocacy groups needed

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE REASON why local TV and moviemaking is viewership is good rather than commercial shows is the fact that it's been taking us for granted.

It always seems that it loves us and is dedicated to the healthy viewing welfare of our families and impressionable children. Instead, industry practice is focused more on profit than on service.

To fish this problem, we first have to admit that this is mostly our fault. We've been such a pushover... all accepting... and all-forgiving authority that some TV people feel they can push us this way and that with impunity.

It's time, therefore, for us to extraordinarily realize that local TV is the more it is because we have the freedom to use exposure to it.

Let's stop blaming others for the mess we're in, and start assuming ourselves of not doing our rightful share to persuade our TV people to come up with programs that are somewhat better than desperate one-million-peso pucha.

First off, we should realize that our combined viewing numbers are the necessary ingredient. Ten years ago, the CBCP asked us to conduct a workshop for the formation of such groups, and many interested and concerned viewers took the course. In it, we emphasized that, since viewers have a great stake in the positive programming of TV shows, they should make known their reactions to those shows by writing the channels involved, or by resorting to media exposure for their comments.

Reactions

We also stressed that their reactions shouldn't all be negative, that we should also give out of our way to praise good TV workers for their quality programs, because it's difficult to encourage upright moral values on local TV.

The good news is that some of the TV advocacy groups formed during that workshop are still active. But, we need more and more such groups for enlightened people's voice to make a real difference in the industry.

If you want to learn how to join up your own TV advocacy group, call 564-6078, and we'll be happy to help.

PS.: For good pointers that the Television Advocacy Group formed at the CBCP workshop is still active, here's its latest reaction, sent to the producer of the extended telenovela, "Walang Hanggan".

"The show's plots revolves around a never-ending fight for wealth and power, each competing family employing all means, legit or not, to succeed with other. Lives are taken with no remorse, as if there were no such thing as consequences.

"While the show's negative values are plentiful and magnified, it does also portray some positive values, but, it is packed with too much grids, deceit, deception, greed, power and ambition.

"Those involved in its production should care more about the messages they are sending. Because of their popularity, they have a responsibility they should help shape and mold the minds and hearts of their show's many viewers."

When rain falls

WITH ALL the rain that's been pouring, let's mull over some insights that can shed light during the storm:

• A brother is a man who lends you money when the weather is fair, but takes it away when it rains.—*Traditional proverb* (Be careful of men with round sureness.)

• A little rain each day will fill the rivers to overflowing.—*Likhaan proverb* (Instill it little bad to big doings.)

• Giving advice in the summit is like rain falling on mud-dry ground.—*Iranian proverb*

• If you're already wet, you won't care about the rain.—*Romanian proverb*

• It never rains on your neighbors without you getting your hair wet.—*Chinese proverb* (What happens to your neighbors also affects you.)

• It rained on the mountain top, but it was the valley below that got flooded.—*African proverb* (The actions of the people on top affect those below them.)

• It's the rain that fills the rivers, not the dew.—*Sri Lankan proverb* (Be careful to work with everybody's welfare in mind but not to answer. You must, but they are separated. Asked about the future on his ring finger, he explained that it was a substitute for an actual wedding ring, "because I wouldn't wear a ring all the time," he said. "I don't like wearing jewelry. So, I got this (tattoo) instead of a wedding ring."

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LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

• A downing rain isn't troubled by rain.—*Iranian proverb* (Don't complain about minor annoyances.)

• A farmer hopes for rain, a soldier hopes for sunshine.—and the gods business.—*Chinese proverb* (People ask for different things.)

• As long lasters show the rain, more than the calendar.—*Creole proverb* (Nature has a way of knowing things better than humans.)

• The heaviest rain falls on the house that leaks the most.—*Spanish proverb* (People who are most troubled by storms are those with no spiritual wisdom.)

• The plant God favors will grow even without rain.—*Afghan proverb* (He who takes decades to find shelf always be blessed (favorably).)

Benefit show for Susan Fuentes

AT 7 PM on Aug. 28 at Zobel's Tomas Morato, Zobel, Ana Feliciano and 28 singing stars will perform in "Ending a Musical for Susan," a fund-raising show for the medical needs of Susan Fuentes, dubbed the Musical Queen of Songs in the '70s and '80s. Call 376-7376.

MONTAGE

FUENTES: Within breathe "Destiny."

'Love, Bahrane'

The Music School of Ryan Cayabyab presents "Love, Bahrane" on Aug. 24 at Music's arena. The new and exciting female trio specializes in bossa and jazz standards and stage just about anything they sing. Les Amos Arboreum, Ryan Cayabyab and Mel Sicro are among the notables. For reservations, see and charge! Call 437-9848 or 0917-909-6464.

'One Night Only'

Club Green lounge back 'this' up. DJ Alex Rodriguez is set to open on Sept. 8 at Republic Club, Taguig. World Mandia, Green include DJ Steve Smith, DJ Ashy Villanueva, Daniel Grandeza and Jonny Trudeau. Check out www.ad-rotaryconnect.com.

New Plan 258

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The Richmonde Hotel's Chef's Exclusives for August feature delectable appetizers, soup of the day, salads or succulent chicken breast fillet, primary dessert and a glass of wine, available any time of the day. Call 688-0419.

At Bulgogi Brothers

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Movies on TV

On ABS today at 9 a.m., "Shrimp I Blow Up The Bed." Tomorrow at 2:05 p.m., "John Tucker Must Die." Monday, Aug. 15 at 7:40 p.m., "Tae, Pray, Love." Aug. 23 at 8 a.m., "The Ring's Speech." Sep. 22 at 11:55 p.m., "After Life." Aug. 23 at 12:50 p.m., "Inception." Aug. 28 at 8:15 p.m., "The Last Airbender."

Heartthrobs luck out

Pinoy page G4

Pat (Quinzon) are similarly unlucky. They have likewise parted ways with Tuyang (Megan Young), Lipaya (Julia Montes) and Darisy (Sunga Garcia), respectively—which explains why they're supportive of Lloyd's quest for redemption. But, some things are easier said than done, especially when discarding news about his reaches them. She's about to get married—and time is running out!

To stop the wedding, Lloyd embarks on a road trip that requires his buddies to "invest" their failed whatevership, before they crash Ana's bridal shower—as male strippers clad in superhero costumes!

Helping them accomplish their mission are Lloyd's close confidant, Aki (Jerry Gonzales), and hot guy BFF, Jay (Dulal Pramis)—but, even the former is hiding a secret she's long kept from her beleaguered chums! How will this affect Lloyd's decision to pursue Ana, come what may?

With confounding hijinks ensuing, Martin's ("Clinco") sippy first full-length feature veers from hilarious slapstick to stock sentimentality, and peppers its tale with narrative side-trips that are more annoying than entertaining. For one, shifting "lots of" someone with a challenge is insensitive and has long fallen out of comedic fashion.

Its giddy briskness keeps the movie seemingly eventful (but overcrowded, and denies its developed characters the opportunity to shine. It doesn't help that the whole story is anchored on a lukewarm premise that's as quirky as it is strange (or—admit it—unbelievable).

QIL, DEE AND LEO. Quest for redemption.

Classic tunes

To be fair, the film has its plus points: It's as visually diverting as it is quickly paced, with a soundtrack that effectively evokes the Rivers/Brandt classic tunes in commendable some highly-danged success.

Unfortunately, the cast struggles to keep up with its flimsy material. Jericho is outglided down's flatline by the well-suited but mostly melodrama investing the side stories of the lovely Julia and the intense Megan.

The ladies provide able support (so does the shy Mart Pramis), but the story doesn't give them enough elbow room to shine all their dramatic ones. Ok. Other than look supportive and utterly lovelorn, the luminous Mendiola isn't required to do much, either—just like cutie, she provides a breath of fresh air when the busy exposition ramps up the drama.

The best leads are also the most performance, one notably Dee and Quinzon—but, together, they lack the chemistry needed to keep their collective dilemma engrossing and "relatable."

Moreover, the movie fails to push them out of their thumpy comfort zones, or when it threatens love story and a love-child angle are introduced into the disparate storylines, the element of believability feels stretched—and sadly unobserved!

Artists' tilt goes . . .

From page G4

pose in the nude for a photo, graph that she then made copies of, for her prospective buyers' delectation.

But, there was more than nudity involved, since the also-nebulized in her artwork a number of "secrets" and "true confessions" that served as an intriguing "we had overdone" to her visual offering.

The insightful juxtaposition wasn't lost on the judges...and she garnered accolades for an utter work!

Hence the "Work of Art" should prompt our TV people to be of similarly innovative and provocative service to local viewers, to show them that the arts should be a key part of the song and word of our lives, not just a stylish diversion.

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